

EIR Request (received 03 May 2019) - Reference: DFI/2019-0165

Details of the average number of Penalty Charge Notices issued (and associated revenue) on Prince Regent Road, Belfast, over the last 5 years, and the timings for the consultation for introduction of double yellow lines behind the Portland 88 Apartments Development.

Response (issued 04 June 2019)

Thank you for your email of 03 May 2019 in which you requested, under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, details the number of penalty charge notices (PCNs) issued in Prince Regent Road along with any minutes related to your complaint and the timings/minutes for the double yellow lines in Coyle's Place.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

In response to your request, please see below a table showing the number of PCNs issued in Prince Regent Road in the last 5 years. These PCN's were issued at various times throughout the year, and due to the relatively low numbers it is not practicable to average the amount paid per week as requested.

Financial Year	PCNs Issued	Amount Paid
2014-2015	4	£270
2015-2016	20	£810
2016-2017	16	£765
2017-2018	40	£1,755
2018-2019	16	£585

With regard to your request for a consultation into the double yellow lines in Prince Regent Road, I can advise that we have previously carried out a number of assessments at this location, which have all indicated that the waiting restrictions are still required and are appropriate.

We have also received a number of complaints regarding problems caused by illegally parked cars at this location and requesting additional enforcement. It is considered that any changes to the waiting restrictions may amplify the problems for delivery vehicles servicing the businesses in Prince Regent Road.

Consequently, we do not propose to carry out a consultation into the waiting restrictions at this location, as conditions have not yet changed from previous assessments.

I can also advise that we do not have any minutes held on file in relation to your complaint. Our records simply detail your correspondence to us and our subsequent replies.

The only recent installation of waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the Portland 88 Apartments, on Ormeau Road, was in the alley way between Coyle's Place and Walnut Street, to the rear of 154-161 Donegall Pass. In October 2017, we were contacted by a representative of Donegall Pass Community Forum who wished to enquire about the possibility of having full-time waiting restrictions installed at this location.

We met on 31 October 2017 and, because of traffic progression and pedestrian obstruction issues that were highlighted at the meeting, we agreed to the introduction of waiting restrictions in the alleyway. There are no recorded minutes from the meeting of 31 October 2017.

A full legislative process was carried out for the waiting restrictions, including a letter drop to frontagers on 13 November 2017. We also wrote to inform the PSNI and Belfast City Council of our proposal on 10 November 2017. We received written support for the proposal from the PSNI on 12 December 2017. The proposal was subsequently advertised in the local printed media and we received no objections. The double yellow lines were installed in the alleyway on 27 January 2019.

We have no records of any correspondence between ourselves and the builder of the Portland 88 Apartments, relating to the installation of waiting restrictions in the area.

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