The 10 minute grace period for parking

As you may be aware a 10 minute grace period for parking comes into effect on the 6th of April 2015. It will only apply in England for public regulated parking both on street - and off-street.

We have set out the following examples of the regulations in varying circumstances as to when it will and will not apply:

The exact wording in the Statutory Instrument is as follows:

"If a vehicle is parked legally on a designated parking bay when it is initially parked, then you should apply a ten minute grace period before issuing a PCN from the moment it becomes parked illegally."

This means:

- A vehicle parked on a residents bay overnight when controls are not in place (and the vehicle is allowed to park), will receive a 10 minute grace period from the moment controls commence.

- A vehicle that parks on a residents bay, shared use bay or pay and display bay when controls are already in force, and the driver does not display a permit, visitors, permit or pay and display ticket is liable for a PCN without the need for a 10 minute grace period (any usual observation periods apply)

- A vehicle parked on a single yellow line (and not in a designated parking place) outside of the hours of control will be liable to an immediate PCN without the 10 minute grace period when controls commence (subject to normal observation period)

- A vehicle parked in a bay that is not designated for that class of vehicle can receive an immediate PCN without the 10 minute grace period if it parks when controls are already in force. 10 minutes grace will be given if it is parked legally before controls commence (any usual observation periods will apply).

Our usual observation periods can be seen by following this link:


If the link is broken visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/parking and visit our FAQ page and look for a document called:

‘Contraventions and How to avoid Penalty Charge Notices’

If you are still not sure if this applies to you, please contact us at:

parking@stalbans.gov.uk