# East Twickenham man contests £150 bin fine, citing government guidelines



A homeowner in East Twickenham has been fined £150 for placing his rubbish out too early, sparking a dispute over the fairness and application of local waste disposal rules. Leon Wright, 40, found an enforcement notice on his doorstep after returning from his honeymoon, having left his bins out a few hours before the council’s stipulated time. The council requires that rubbish bags be placed outside only after 8pm on the evening before collection, but Mr Wright had set his out at 3:25pm on the day of collection—about four and a half hours early.

Mr Wright, who lives above a row of shops in the area, explained that putting the rubbish out was the last task he did before leaving for his trip. “I never thought they would send fines straight away. It was literally just a few hours before the collection window,” he said. Upon his return from a cruise honeymoon, he found the fixed penalty notice issued by Richmond Council demanding payment within ten days, which was impossible given he was away at the time.

Feeling the fine was unjust, Mr Wright is contesting the charge, arguing that it contradicts government guidelines. "It says in black and white on the GOV.UK website that you can't issue penalties for leaving bins out a few hours early, which is exactly what they have done,” he said. He added that the bins weren’t obstructing pedestrians, suggesting the penalty was “a blatant cash grab.” Mr Wright has made it clear he does not intend to pay, vowing to take the council to court if necessary, emphasising: “It is not the money but the principle.”

Richmond Council stipulates that rubbish should not be put out before 8pm on the evening before collection. This rule is intended to prevent obstruction of public pathways and to keep the environment tidy and safe for all residents. The council offers a formal process for disputing penalty notices, encouraging residents to contact them if they believe fines have been wrongly issued. However, according to Mr Wright, his appeals have been refused.

The fine was issued under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which prohibits leaving litter in any place open to the air, a measure aimed at maintaining public cleanliness. Under Section 88 of the same Act, fixed penalty notices can be issued for breaches of this law, enabling local authorities to enforce waste management policies and promote cleaner public spaces.

Government guidance on household waste collection emphasises the need for clear communication between councils and residents about collection times in order to maintain public health and safety. While local authorities have the power to enforce these rules, the case raises questions about whether the penalties are being applied with sufficient flexibility or discretion, particularly in circumstances such as brief, non-obstructive early placement of bins.

As it stands, Mr Wright’s challenge highlights a storm of frustration among some residents regarding the rigidity of waste disposal enforcement and casts a spotlight on the balance local councils must strike between regulation and fairness.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150), [[2]](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/when_to_put_out_your_rubbish)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150), [[4]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-waste-collection-services-guidance-for-local-authorities)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/when_to_put_out_your_rubbish), [[3]](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/what_to_do_if_you_get_a_penalty_notice), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/87/enacted), [[6]](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/88/enacted)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-waste-collection-services-guidance-for-local-authorities), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2078883/man-furious-he-s-fined-150> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/when_to_put_out_your_rubbish> - Richmond Council's official guidelines specify that residents should place their rubbish out after 8pm on the evening before collection. This policy aims to maintain cleanliness and prevent obstruction on public pathways. The council advises against early placement to avoid potential penalties and to ensure community safety and aesthetics.
3. <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/what_to_do_if_you_get_a_penalty_notice> - Richmond Council provides information on how to handle penalty notices related to waste management. Residents are encouraged to contact the council directly if they believe a fine has been issued in error. The council outlines the process for disputing fines and emphasizes the importance of adhering to local waste disposal regulations.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-waste-collection-services-guidance-for-local-authorities> - The UK government's guidance document outlines best practices for household waste collection services. It emphasizes the importance of clear communication between local authorities and residents regarding waste collection times and procedures. The document also highlights the role of local authorities in enforcing waste management policies to maintain public health and safety.
5. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/87/enacted> - Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it an offence to leave litter in any place open to the air. This includes depositing waste in public areas without proper disposal. The legislation aims to keep public spaces clean and free from litter, with penalties for those who fail to comply.
6. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/88/enacted> - Section 88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows for fixed penalty notices to be issued for offences under Section 87. This provision enables local authorities to impose fines on individuals who leave litter in public spaces, streamlining the enforcement process and promoting cleaner environments.
7. <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/environmental_services/rubbish_and_recycling/what_to_do_if_you_get_a_penalty_notice> - Richmond Council provides information on how to handle penalty notices related to waste management. Residents are encouraged to contact the council directly if they believe a fine has been issued in error. The council outlines the process for disputing fines and emphasizes the importance of adhering to local waste disposal regulations.