

over, compared to a lower age limit of 18 in the other UK nations. Following pressure from the Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland, the Coronavirus (No. 2) (Scotland) Act amended Regulation 9 to raise the minimum age to 18, which came into effect on 27 May 2020. This was intended to bring it in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Police Scotland's 'Policing Approach to Children and Young People 2016-2020', and respond to calls by the UN to ensure children's rights were safeguarded during the pandemic. Nevertheless, for much of the first lockdown in Scotland, it was legal for 16- and 17-year-olds to be fined by the police, which did impact on the demographic profile of those who were in receipt of FPNs.

Table 1: Value and payment structure of FPNs[§] across the UK at the start of each UK-wide lockdown period.

	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales
Snapshot at March 2020				
Value of first FPN	£60	£60	£60	£60
Value of subsequent FPNs	Doubled each time, from £120 to a maximum of £960 [†]	Doubled each time, from £120 to a maximum of £960	Doubled each time, from £120 to a maximum of £960	£120 for subsequent offences*
Payment discount for all FPNs	Reduced by 50% if paid within 28 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 28 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days
Snapshot at January 2021				
Value of first FPN	£60	£200 ⁹	£200 ¹⁰	£60
Value of subsequent FPNs	Doubled each time, from £120 to a maximum of £960 [†]	Doubled each time to maximum of £6,400	NA (single tariff structure)	Doubled each time to maximum of £1,920
Payment discount for all FPNs	Reduced by 50% if paid within 28 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days	Reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days

[§] FPNs could be issued for a number of different offences, which changed during the pandemic. The value and payment structures described in the table are the minimum for breaches committed by individuals. It does not include minimum fines for those offences that applied to businesses or travel regulations, which were typically higher.

[†] Note that, in accordance with Lord Advocate guidelines, no fines larger than £480 were issued in Scotland.

* This was amended in May 2020¹¹ to doubling each time to a maximum of £1,920 for sixth offence

⁹ FPNs in England and Northern Ireland could be issued for a number of different offences, which each had different starting costs and pay structures. For more information, see: [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Steps\) \(England\) Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#); [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(No. 2\) \(Amendment No. 13\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹ [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 4\) Regulations 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)