



## **10 key findings - Covid rule fines peaked in latter stages of lockdown**

1. Over 120,000 fines were issued in relation to illegal travel and movement, social gatherings and failure to follow instructions, 5% of which were subsequently cancelled.
2. The rate of fines issued in Wales was almost double that for England, although this declined over time. It is likely that higher levels of illegal travel and movement into Wales at least partially explain this difference between countries.
3. Compared to their population share, fines were more likely to be issued to men, to those aged 18-24, to those from ethnic minority backgrounds, and to those living in areas with higher levels of deprivation.
4. The disparity in rate of fines for ethnic minorities compared to white people was 2.3 in England & 2.8 in Wales. Disparities were highest for Black people in England, and Asian or Mixed backgrounds in Wales. Ethnic disparities declined in Wales, but increased in England.
5. During 1st lockdown, FPN recipients in England were ~7x more likely to be living in one of the 10% most deprived areas than 10% least deprived; in Wales this was ~4x. This difference reduced over time, suggesting the police were dealing with wider sectors of the population.
6. Rates of fining varied widely across Police Force Areas, but were consistently higher in Wales than England. When rule was 'stay at home', enforcement was highest in rural forces; but when focus became social gatherings, rates were higher in larger urban forces.
7. There was ethnic disparity in rate of fines across all 43 PFAs; however, this fell substantially when non-residents were excluded, suggesting that enforcement relating to illegal travel & movement may have disproportionately involved people from ethnic minority backgrounds.
8. 4% of FPN recipients were fined more than once. Due to incremental increases in fines, the median cost of fines for a single recipient was £30 in Wales and £100 in England; however this increased to £180 and £500, respectively, for those who received more than one fine.
9. Fine cancellation was more common for fines given to: those who were not resident in the PFA of issue, people aged 35-44, those from ethnic minority backgrounds, those from more deprived areas, and repeat FPN recipients.
10. Those most likely to pay Covid fines were: women, older people, ethnic minorities, those living in less deprived areas, and those who were fined only once. Fines issued in England were less likely to be paid, which may be due to the lower cost of fines in Wales.

**FULL NEWS ARTICLE:** <https://www.scadr.ac.uk/news-and-events/news-when-did-fines-issued-police-breaking-covid-rules-peak>

**FULL REPORT:** <https://www.scadr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/NPCC-Report-March-2023-final-1.pdf>

