

Extract from The Highway Code. **Rule 141**

Bus lanes. These are shown by road markings and signs that indicate which (if any) other vehicles are permitted to use the bus lane. Unless otherwise indicated, you should not drive in a bus lane during its period of operation. You may enter a bus lane to stop, to load or unload where this is not prohibited.

In addition advice also indicates that it is may be permitted to enter into a bus lane for the following reasons:

- when directed to do so by a police officer in uniform;
- to avoid a collision or debris in the road;
- to drop off or pick up a passenger; (But this does not apply to driving through bus gates)
- to undertake a vehicle turning right (in this case ensure that the route back out of the bus lane is clear before undertaking);
- Accessing side roads/junctions: if the driver need to access a side road off the bus lane or turn left at a junction, this should be done by entering the bus lane just before the side road/junction. The road marking will usually indicate where to pull in to bus lane either with a broken line or by its absence.

It is expected that the vehicle is driven in the bus lane for the shortest practical and reasonable distance otherwise there will be a fined.

In addition the following excuses would be unacceptable without significant mitigating circumstances:

- *“I was going to turn left at the next junction”*
- *“there were no buses in the bus lane at the time”*
- *“I was only in the lane for a few seconds”*
- *“there is not enough room at the junction to make the left turn”*
- *“I was lost”*
- *“I didn’t see the signs”.*