

Information for residents on Public Space Protection Orders

What is a Public Space Protection Order?

PSPO was introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.



When did the Order come into effect in Reading?

The Public Space Protection Order came into effect at the beginning of April 2019 in Reading; the PSPO provides additional tools to deal with anti-social issues which cause concern to those that live, work and visit Reading.

What restrictions does the PSPO cover?

- Begging – including Aggressive Begging, using a sign, container or selling a free publication. (Aggressive Begging is where a person abuses, threatens or harasses, follows or makes people feel intimidated near cash machines in order to obtain money, food or other items).
- Busking – Buskers must be registered to Busk
- Dog Control & Dog Fouling – failing to put a dog on a lead when requested, allowing a dog to foul in a public place and failing to pick it up and put in a suitable receptacle
- Drug Activity
- Public urination and defecation
- Littering – of personal belongings
- Anti-social street drinking. (This is not a ban on drinking in a public place; if you are not causing a nuisance whilst consuming alcohol in a public place, the PSPO will not affect you).

What area does the PSPO cover?

The PSPO covers the whole of Reading Borough.



How was the order decided?

Consultation took part with partner agencies and the public; the final Order was based on the feedback from the consultation and agreed by the Council's Neighbourhood and Leisure committee.

How will the PSPO be publicised?

Signage will be placed on the main routes into the town and also in the town centre. Small signs will be used in specific hotspot areas. Information will also be on the council's website.



What happens if someone breaches the order?



Officers will take a measured approach; this will include education, warnings and enforcement. Breaching the Order is a criminal offence and carries a maximum fine of £1,000 if convicted. However, in most cases where it is felt that it is necessary to take enforcement, the offence would be dealt with via a Fixed Penalty Notice. Agencies will continue to ensure that support is provided to those who need it.

Who will enforce the Order?

This will be proportionate and any enforcement action will be priorities based on reported incidents and intelligence. However, there are no new resources to enforce the Order, so there will continue to be a need to prioritise any activity based on intelligence, which will be used to identify hotspot areas.

How long will the Order last for?

The Order will last for a period of 3 years, although it can be varied, following a public consultation, during the time the Order is in place.

How to report anti-social behaviour?

If you witness anti-social behaviour taking place, you can report it to Thames Valley Police (TVP) or Reading Borough Council (RBC):

TVP - telephone **101**
online via the Thames Valley Police website <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

RBC – telephone the call centre on **0118 937 3787**
email: asb.team@reading.gov.uk

A copy of the Public Space Protection Order is available on Reading Borough Council's website.