

FAQ's

1. What are the concerns and issues with street drinking?

Street drinking is sometimes associated with anti-social behaviour, causing high levels of noise, rowdy and nuisance behaviour, harassment and intimidation of passers-by, as well as the littering of cans and bottles and urination in public spaces. There are further concerns with underage drinking, sexual activity, criminal damage and substance misuse.

2. What are PSPOs?

These are areas that are designated by us where anti-social behaviour has been causing a nuisance or annoyance.

In these areas, police, police community support officers and council officers have certain powers to help tackle such behavior.

Officers can request people to stop drinking alcohol in the designated public places and ask to surrender their drink. If people refuse they can be issued a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 and a maximum of £1000 up on prosecution.

A PSPO is not an outright ban on street drinking. It is not an offence to consume alcohol in a public place; the offence is failing to comply with an officer's request.

3. Can I be stopped or arrested for carrying alcohol in public spaces?

A PSPO does not make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place. So long as drinking is done responsibly a PSPO will only be used to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour or disorder. Under these circumstances police and council officers will have the power to stop people drinking alcohol and seize or confiscate alcohol within the controlled area. If you fail to comply with an officer's request to stop drinking and/or dispose of alcohol, you could face a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

4. Do Police already have these powers?

The Police can make an arrest for street drinking related anti-social behaviour. However, it is only an offence to refuse with an officer's request to stop drinking alcohol or to surrender alcohol when asked, where a PSPO is in operation. Where there is no PSPO in operation, it is not an offence alone to refuse to surrender alcohol, although any related anti-social behaviour can give cause for arrest.

5. Will there be signs all around the city alerting people to the new city wide PSPO?

Yes.

The intention is that signs will be located in areas that suffer from the highest impact of alcohol related disorder, as well as the main roads into the city.

6. Would people still be able to drink or hold alcohol bottles outside pubs?

Yes.

The PSPO does not make it illegal to drink alcohol in a public place. However, if a person was to drink beyond the legal boundary of a licensed premise and they do not stop drinking if asked to do so by a police officer or another designated officer, then they could be at risk of regulation.

7. What about street parties and events in parks?

Events within a public place authorized by a premises license or a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) will be excluded from the Police PSPO powers.

8. Will there be any extra policing to enforce the PSPO?

No.

Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to patrol and respond to incidents as part of their community response. However, designated Council officers and officers any person designated by the council Community Safety Accreditation Scheme will be able to share the same powers that the police have.

9. Are there time restrictions on a PSPO?

PSPOs will be in force all hours of the day, every day.

10. What are the benefits of citywide a PSPO?

The main benefits of a PSPO are to reduce street drinking. Additional benefits include a safer city and a healthy environment, whilst reducing harmful consumption of alcohol and protecting vulnerable people.

11. Any other information?

If you or someone you know has an alcohol related problem, there is help available. You can contact:

The Alcohol Advice Centre

Paget House, 2 West Street, Leicester, LE1 6XP

Telephone: **0116 225 6400**

Opening times:

Monday: 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday: 8 am to 7 pm

Wednesday: 9 am to 8 pm

Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm

Friday: 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 1 pm