

Consultation on London Borough of Hillingdon Public Spaces Protection Order– Information Sheet

The proposal and consultation

Hillingdon Council is inviting you to share your views across a 6-week period from 20th January 2025 to 3rd March 2025 regarding the Council's proposal to simultaneously end [Hillingdon's current PSPO 2023](#), and in its place introduce [the PSPO 2025](#). This information sheet is designed to explain key points of the proposal before you share your views.

This public consultation will give you the opportunity to provide feedback / comments on the proposed PSPO 2025. This consultation ensures community involvement and allows residents to have their say before the final decision is made. We welcome your participation via the survey on our website. All responses are valuable and will be reviewed in order to help the Council in coming to a decision on the proposal.

What is a PSPO?

A PSPO is a legal measure available under the [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014](#) (the 2014 Act) that identifies and addresses specific unreasonable and persistent activities in public spaces, which have a detrimental impact on the quality of life for residents, visitors, and the wider community. It imposes certain prohibitions or requirements to tackle these identified activities in specified public spaces.

A PSPO is enforced by police officers, police community safety officers, and officers designated by the local authority. Non-compliance with a PSPO without “reasonable excuse” may lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100 being issued. Non-payment can lead to prosecution, with a maximum penalty of £1,000.

Legal context: When can a PSPO be introduced?

Section 59 of the 2014 Act states that local authorities can only make a PSPO if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

The first condition is that—

- (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities—

- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the PSPO.

PSPOs aim to balance safety and enjoyment in public spaces by restricting certain actions without unduly restricting lawful behaviour. The only restrictions that can be lawfully imposed are those that are reasonable in order to prevent or reduce the detrimental effect of the identified activities from continuing, occurring or recurring.

An “interested person”, which is someone who lives, works in, or regularly visits the area where a PSPO will apply, may challenge a PSPO through an application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the PSPO being made.

A PSPO can last for up to 3 years, after which it must be reviewed.

For more information regarding the legal context and criteria for introducing a PSPO, refer to section 59 of the 2014 Act, which is available on legislation.gov.uk.

Why is Hillingdon Council proposing to withdraw the current PSPO 2023 and the PSPO 2025? The use and effect of the PSPO 2023

Hillingdon Council, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, utilises a range of measures to protect the public and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. These include Community Protection Notices (CPNs), injunctions, dispersal powers, and Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs). PSPOs provide an additional tool to address persistent issues in public spaces that might otherwise be difficult to manage. This has proven to be the case with the PSPO 2023, which addresses a number of activities, including the following:

- **Alcohol and Drugs:** Possession and consumption of alcohol in public, and use of controlled drugs.
- **Vehicle Nuisance:** Includes street racing and car meets.
- **Urinating, Defecating, and Spitting:** Prohibited unless within a designated premise.
- **Dogs and Vermin:** Dog fouling, excessive numbers of dogs, and feeding birds/vermin.
- **Parks and Open Spaces:** Unauthorised fireworks, BBQs, metal detecting, and use of amplification equipment.
- **General Prohibitions:** Includes unauthorised encampments, verbal abuse, aggressive begging, and obstruction of officers.
- **Distribution of Free Leaflets:** Except for political, religious, or charitable purposes.

You can find more information about the PSPO 2023 and access the full text of the PSPO via the [Council's website](#).

Between August 2023 and October 2024, the following data was recorded on FPNs issued for breach of the PSPO 2023:

Amplification	1
Verbally Abusive	15
BBQ	1
Car Meet	142
Dog Fouling	52
Dogs off Lead	3
Drinking/Drugs	165
Feeding Birds	7
Fishing	2
More than 4 dogs	1
Idling vehicle	2998
Motorised electric vehicles	289
Spitting	776

Urinating/Defecating	434
Obstruction of officer	131
Total FPNs issued	5017

Review of the PSPO 2023 and the proposed PSPO 2025

Nearly 2 years on from the introduction of the PSPO 2023 in summer 2023, Hillingdon Council is keen to be proactive in responding to the current situation and issues that are currently concerning local residents and visitors so that the borough remains a safe, inclusive and accessible environment for all. As part of this, Hillingdon Council is keen to ensure that the PSPO is not unduly restrictive and remains proportionate in line with the legal criteria and does not go beyond this. PSPOs are regularly reviewed in terms of reported breaches and enforcement undertaken and can be discharged or can lapse or the conditions can be varied. Discharge of a PSPO must be undertaken when the PSPO becomes unnecessary due to the issue that justified the PSPO having ceased. This is why withdrawal of the PSPO 2023 and introduction of PSPO 2025 is being proposed.

Evidence collected from multiple sources between August 2023 and October 2024 helped identify issues of current concern. The sources include:

- Hillingdon Council website (where residents log issues)
- Hillingdon Council Complaints team
- Hillingdon Council Enforcement team
- Hillingdon Council Housing Service
- Hillingdon Safer Communities – Localities
- Metropolitan Police
- Uxbridge Business Improvement District (BID) Team

From analysis of this evidence, a number of activities were identified as problematic, including the following :

- Use and misuse of alcohol and drugs in public areas
- Anti-social use of vehicles, including street racing and car meets
- Urinating, defecating, and spitting in public spaces
- Control of dogs, birds, and vermin
- Begging
- Amplification of speech and music

These activities that have been identified as problematic are therefore covered by restrictions in the proposed PSPO 2025, which include:

- **Alcohol and Drugs:** Prohibition of open alcohol containers, consumption in public, and being under the influence of controlled drugs.
- **Vehicle Nuisance:** Continued restrictions on car meets, street racing, and use of footways by powered vehicles.
- **Urinating, Defecating, and Spitting:** Continued restrictions except in designated facilities.

- **Dogs, Birds, and Vermin:** Continued restrictions on control on dogs and feeding of birds/vermin in public spaces.
- **General Prohibitions:** Continued restrictions on encampments, begging, verbal abuse, and obstruction of officers.
- **Parks and Open Spaces:** Continued restrictions on unauthorised fires, metal detecting, and amplification equipment.
- **Town Centres:** Amended restrictions on street trading, begging, and distribution of printed materials except for political, religious, or charitable purposes

Some restrictions are proposed to apply to the whole borough whilst some are proposed to apply only to parks, open spaces and Uxbridge, Ruislip and Hayes town centres depending on where the identified activities are causing, or are likely to cause, issue. You can find more [information about the proposed PSPO 2025](#) and the reasons behind it and access [the full text of the proposed PSPO](#) (including maps showing geographical scope) via the Council's website.

If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Enforcement Team: SSET@Hillingdon.gov.uk