City Centre PSPO 2020 FAQs

The Public Spaces Protection Order or PSPO aims to improve the quality of life for people who live, work and visit the City by allowing authorities to tackle anti-social behaviour in the areas most affected.

Officers who can enforce the PSPO are authorised Council Officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Police Constables. If you are found to breach any of the conditions you will be issued with a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice. However, if someone persistently breaches this order they could receive more formal action which could include either a Community Protection Notice, a Criminal Behaviour Order or a Civil Injunction - in some cases this could mean unlimited fines or even imprisonment. Failure to comply with the order is an offence carrying a maximum fine of £1000 or a Fixed Penalty Notice.

How will you deal with begging?
We avoid giving fines for begging to those who are genuinely homeless and instead officers will offer support, working closely with the Housing Needs Department at the council. Action will be taken against individuals found begging who are in accommodation and in receipt of benefits and in breach of the City Centre PSPO.

Can I cycle along Bridge Street?
The Traffic Regulation Order along Bridge Street prohibits cycling along there between the hours of 9am and 6pm. If you are caught riding a bicycle between these hours you will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for unauthorised cycling. To avoid a fine you just need to get off your bike and walk for a short period.

Can I cycle in other areas of the City Centre?
Yes, the PSPO does not ban cycling in the City Centre, but it does enable officers to enforce the existing Traffic Regulation Order on Bridge Street. Officers are also authorised to ask a cyclist to get off their bikes elsewhere in the City Centre PSPO area if they are cycling in a manner which is likely to cause injury to another person. Failure to follow the officer’s instructions is a breach and will result in a fine being issued.

Is busking still a condition in the City Centre PSPO?
No. Since the initial City Centre PSPO was implemented in April 2017, there were no recorded breaches of the City Centre PSPO for non-compliance of the busking code. It would not have been proportionate to continue with this condition in the re-implemented City Centre PSPO 2020 and it was therefore removed from the order.

Can people have alcohol in the City Centre PSPO area?
This condition will not affect people who have unopened containers of alcohol i.e. bottles of wine purchased as part of a shop which are intended to be consumed outside of the PSPO area. Nor will it affect those who are drinking responsibly within a licensed premise, during outdoor events, having picnics, etc.

Officers will be asking people to either surrender or dispose of their alcohol, or leave the order area and not return for 6 hours, if the officer is of the opinion that the person is acting in an anti-social manner (i.e. shouting, swearing, appears intoxicated and likely to contribute to anti-social behaviour or commit a crime). Failure to comply with these instructions will be a breach of the PSPO.
How will you deal with anti-social behaviour?
Anyone witnessed by our officers to be acting in a manner which is causing or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress will be asked to disperse from the area and not return for 6 hours.

If I have witnessed breaches of the City Centre PSPO or would like to know more information, who can I contact?
You can report any issues or raise any queries with the Prevention & Enforcement Service on 01733 863853, be emailing antisocialbehaviour@peterborough.gov.uk or by speaking directly with one of our uniformed Environmental Enforcement Officers whilst on patrol in the City Centre.