

## **POPS FORUM: JUNE 2025 – Managing Protests in POPS**

### **Process for Considering a Protest in Manchester**

#### **Identify the Group**

- Understand the organisers and their objectives.

#### **Victim Focus**

- Assess potential disruptions to business operations.

#### **Victim Support**

- Ensure support is available for affected individuals and businesses.

#### **Legal Advisor**

- Consult legal experts for advice on rights and obligations.

#### **Legislation and History**

- Review relevant laws and past protest incidents.

#### **Crime Considerations**

- Evaluate potential criminal activities
  - Criminal damage
  - Offences against the person
  - Public Order Act violations
  - Harassment.

#### **Assess Significant Disruptions**

- Consider impacts on public confidence and risks of hate crimes.

### **GMP Guidance: Initial Actions for Protests at Your Location**

- Inform Your Manager or Supervisor Immediately: Notify them about the situation right away
- Activate CCTV Cameras: Use mobile phone video recording with sound to document the incident
- Activate Security Body-Worn Cameras: Ensure any security cameras are turned on for recording
- Secure Access Points: Lock and secure all other entry and exit points to the building
- Alert Staff and Colleagues: Inform all staff to remain aware and alert
- Contact the Police: Call 101 for non-emergencies or dial 999 in emergencies
- Remember to note the incident log number.

### **Information Required When Calling the Police**

When contacting the police, prepare the following details:

- Number of People: How many individuals are involved?
- Identification: Can you identify any protestors or their group?
- Equipment: Do they have banners, flags, or loudhailers? If so, how many?
- Behaviour: Describe their actions and what they are saying.

### **Request to Leave a Building**

A representative from the building should ask the protestors to leave immediately.

Ensure to:

- Record Date/Time: Use CCTV or mobile video to document the request
- Maintain a Crime Scene: Keep items in situ and avoid clean-up for evidence preservation
- Gather Witness Statements: Document accounts from witnesses
- Cost Valuations: Estimate costs related to damages and disruptions
- Maintain a Written Record: Keep a written note of the interaction with the protestors
- Secure Documentation: Keep paperwork i.e. leaflets, handouts.

This information will be essential for the police upon their arrival and when reporting over the phone.

### **Preventative Measures**

- Intelligence Gathering: Be alert to suspicious activities, as reconnaissance may take place before the protest. Please report them
- Implement Protective Measures: Consider protective glass and enhanced security
- Prevention and Deterrence: Increase security measures to prevent escalation
- Explore Civil Injunctions: Consider obtaining a civil injunction when necessary.

### **Trespass vs Aggravated Trespass**

Trespassing means that you have entered onto land, or a building, without the owner's permission. Some places have 'implied permission', such as supermarkets. In these cases, you do not need to get consent to enter the premises.

Aggravated trespass means that you have entered onto land, or a building, without the owner's permission, with the intention of disrupting, obstructing or intimidating others from carrying out lawful activities.

For more information, please read [GMP Trespass Guidance](#).

## **Useful Reading Resources**

### **Axon Community Secure Evidence Collection**

It provides four distinct methods of digital evidence collection: 1:1 Invites, Public Portals, Automated Invites and through the CCTV Registry...

### **Safeguarding Your Business During Public Events**

Crime prevention series from the National Business Crime Centre...

### **Action Counters Terrorism Suite**

A suite of counter terrorism awareness products designed to be delivered to business, industry and others – especially those operating in venues and public spaces...

### **Make Your Workforce Your Greatest Security Asset**

Developing and sustaining a proactive security culture can help you to mitigate against a range of threats that could cause operational, reputational or financial damage to your organisation...

## **Key Recommendations from the Session**

- **Monitor for Suspicious Activities**

Be vigilant for any suspicious behaviour and implement protective measures to prevent escalation.

- **Contact Police**

Document the protest using CCTV, secure the premises, and call the police.

- **Target Identification**

Determine which tenants in your building and estates are being targeted by the protestors.

- **Land Ownership**

Assess whether the protestors are trespassing in a POPS area or public realm.

- **Building Procedures**

Identify the designated point of contact for handling the situation.

- **Scene Preservation**

Avoid cleaning up to ensure evidence is available for the police.

- **Legal and Crime Considerations**

Consult legal experts on rights and obligations, and evaluate potential criminal activities, including public order violations and harassment.

- **Evaluate Damages**

Determine the costs associated with both physical damages and reputational harm

Consider:

- **Cost of Physical Damages**

Estimate repair or replacement expenses for any property affected.

- **Reputational Impact**

Assess potential financial losses due to damage to the organization's reputation, including lost business opportunities and customer trust.