
DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

202X No.

PUBLIC ORDER, ENGLAND AND WALES

**The Public Order Act 1986 (Provision About the Meaning of
Certain Powers to Impose Conditions – Serious Disruption)
Regulations 202[X]**

Made - - - - - *******

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(1)

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12(12), 14(11) and 14ZA(15) of the Public Order Act 1986**(a)**.

In accordance with sections 12(15), 14(14) and 14ZA(18) of that Act**(b)**, a draft of this instrument has been laid before Parliament, and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation, commencement, extent, application and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Public Order Act 1986 (Provision About the Meaning of Certain Power to Impose Conditions – Serious Disruption) Regulations 202[X] and come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales and Scotland.

(3) These Regulations apply only in relation to public processions, public assemblies and one-person protests in England and Wales**(c)**.

(4) In these Regulations “the 1986 Act” means the Public Order Act 1986.

Provision about the meaning of serious disruption to the activities of an organisation

2.—(1) This regulation applies for the purposes of sections 12(1)(aa) (imposing conditions on public processions), 14(1)(aa) (imposing conditions on public assemblies) and 14ZA(1)(a) (imposing conditions on one-person protests) of the 1986 Act.

(2) It may be regarded by the senior police officer as serious disruption to the activities of an organisation which are carried on in the vicinity of—

(a) a public procession,

(a) 1986 c. 64. Sections 12(12), 14(11) and 14ZA(15) were inserted by sections [55(4), 56(6) and 61 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 202[X] (c. [XX]) (“the 202[X] Act”), respectively.

(b) Sections 12(15), 14(14) and 14ZA(18) were inserted by sections [55(4), 56(6) and 61 of the 202[X] Act, respectively.

(c) See section 16 of the Public Order Act 1986 for the definitions of “public procession” and “public assembly”. See section 14ZA(4) of that Act for the definition of “one-person protest”.

- (b) a public assembly, or
- (c) a one-person protest.

if persons connected with the organisation are, for a prolonged period of time, unable to reasonably carry out activities for that organisation such as serving customers, holding meetings or teaching classes, in that vicinity.

Provision about the meaning of serious disruption to the life of the community

3.—(1) This regulation applies for the purposes of sections 12(1)(a) (imposing conditions on public processions) and 14(1)(a) (imposing conditions on public assemblies) of the 1986 Act.

(2) It may be regarded by the senior police officer as serious disruption to the life of the community if there is—

- (a) a significant delay to the supply of a time-sensitive product impacting on the community, or
- (b) prolonged physical disruption to access to essential goods and services impacting on the community.

(3) In paragraph (2)(a), when considering whether there may be a delay is significant, the senior police officer must have regard to any decrease in value or decrease in use of the time-sensitive product that may result from the delay.

(4) In this regulation—

- (a) “time-sensitive product” includes newspapers and perishable items,
- (b) “essential goods and services” means—
 - (i) the supply of money, food, water, energy or fuel,
 - (ii) a system of communication,
 - (iii) a transport facility,
 - (iv) a place of worship,
 - (v) an educational facility,
 - (vi) a service relating to health, or
 - (vii) another critical public service.

Address
Date

Name
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Sections 12, 14 and 14ZA of the Public Order Act 1986 (c.64) set out circumstances in which the senior police officer may give directions imposing conditions on persons organising or taking part in public processions, public assemblies, and one-person protests, respectively. These circumstances include where the senior police officer reasonably believes that the public procession or public assembly may result in serious disruption to the life of the community; or, the noise generated by persons taking part in the procession, assembly, or one-person protest may result in serious disruption to the activities of an organisation carried on in its vicinity.

These Regulations make provision about the meaning of “serious disruption to the life of the community” and “serious disruption to the activities of an organisation which are carried on in the vicinity of” a public procession, a public assembly, or a one-person protest.