

## **OTHER PSPO-RELATED VIEWS**

In order to consider a balanced range of opinions around the issue of PSPOs, a number of links have been included below demonstrating concerns in relation to the use of such Orders.

### **LIBERTY**

Liberty is an independent membership organisation which challenges injustice, defends freedom and campaigns to make sure everyone in the UK is treated fairly. They are campaigners, lawyers and policy experts who work together to protect rights and hold the powerful to account.

- PSPOs: what's happening, why should we be concerned, what is Liberty doing about it?  
<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/fundamental/public-space-protection-orders/>
- If the Government is serious about ending homelessness, it needs to scrap PSPOs (Aug 2018)  
<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/issue/if-the-government-is-serious-about-ending-homelessness-it-needs-to-scrap-public-space-protection-orders/>
- Poverty no longer penalised in landmark Liberty legal action (Dec 2020)  
<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/issue/poverty-no-longer-penalised-in-landmark-liberty-legal-action/>
- BBC News Online: Civil rights group opposes Stockton aggressive begging ban plan (Oct 2021)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-59063614>

### **MANIFESTO CLUB**

The Manifesto Club is at the forefront of challenging the hyper-regulation of public spaces. It produces cutting-edge research, change policy, and work at the front-line to defend those whose liberties have been affected. It takes on vetting, speech codes, leafleting bans, PSPOs, on-the-spot fines, and other key erosion of public freedoms, working with homeless people, buskers, young people, dog walkers, defending them against draconian powers and busybodies.

- PSPOs – The 'Busybodies' Charter' in 2018 (Apr 2019)  
<https://manifestoclub.info/pspos-the-busybodies-charter-in-2018/>
- The myth of 'aggressive begging' (Sep 2018)  
<http://manifestoclub.info/the-myth-of-aggressive-begging/>

### **DOG'S TRUST**

- <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/latest/issues-campaigns/restrictions-on-dogs-in-public-spaces/>

## OTHER

- Guardian – PSPOs: the new control orders threatening our public spaces (Sep 2015)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/sep/08/pspos-new-control-orders-public-spaces-asbos-freedoms>

- Borough Resident: email to the Leader of the Council (Oct 2021)

*'I am glad to hear that the council intends to tackle the aggressive begging practices in the town centre.*

*I remember walking to work in the early hours and being approached by up to five beggars. Just going to get lunch could be an ordeal.*

*However, I do question the use of a PSPO.*

*The penalty for breach is a penalty notice (which will likely go unpaid) and then prosecution. The only sentence available to the court would be a fine (see s67 of the ASB Act 2014). Clearly, if they are begging, they are unlikely to pay any fine and the behaviour is likely to continue unabated.*

*A more useful tool would be an anti-social behaviour injunction (ASBI).*

*The injunction is applied for in the county court and a breach of the same can lead to a custodial sentence for contempt. This is, in my view, a more effective means of dealing with the issue.*

*It also removes the potential negative press around 'criminalisation' as these are purely civil matters.*

*I am a lawyer for another local authority and would encourage you to seek advice from your officers on the appropriate use of ASBIs to deal with the issue; rather than reliance on a PSPO which will do little to solve the issue overall.*

*I hope you investigate this a little more carefully with you officers to evaluate if this is perhaps a better approach, or even one which should be used in conjunction with the PSPO.'*

- Shaw Trust: email to local Councillor (Oct 2021)

*'I've had a worrying report from one of our service users this morning. He's said that he and another of our team were approached by a group of people begging for money in the town centre. Upwards of 10. Apparently there was a PCSO but that didn't stop them from approaching, he's a bit shaken up by it, he didn't give them money but I'm concerned as more of our users are going back to independent travel that they could feel forced to give money over. He wasn't alone as another participant was with him but they are a little less aware of the potential danger. I thought it was worth raising to you, hopefully to raise it just in case there's no awareness of this.*

*It was at about 8:20am and it's not an isolated incident, apparently the group regularly walk around the bus stops at this time asking people for money.*

*Is there an appropriate non-emergency number to ring? One thing that springs to mind is the safe place scheme. They're at the stops around T, just near the top of wellington square. I was going to research whether there were any businesses currently there that are part of the scheme. I don't want the fear of being approached, or worse to reduce their independence.'*