



# Public Order Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 64

### PART II

#### PROCESSIONS AND ASSEMBLIES

#### 14 Imposing conditions on public assemblies.

- (1) If the senior police officer, having regard to the time or place at which and the circumstances in which any public assembly is being held or is intended to be held, reasonably believes that—
- (a) it may result in serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community, or
  - (b) the purpose of the persons organising it is the intimidation of others with a view to compelling them not to do an act they have a right to do, or to do an act they have a right not to do,
- he may give directions imposing on the persons organising or taking part in the assembly such conditions as to the place at which the assembly may be (or continue to be) held, its maximum duration, or the maximum number of persons who may constitute it, as appear to him necessary to prevent such disorder, damage, disruption or intimidation.
- (2) In subsection (1) “the senior police officer” means—
- (a) in relation to an assembly being held, the most senior in rank of the police officers present at the scene, and
  - (b) in relation to an assembly intended to be held, the chief officer of police.
- (3) A direction given by a chief officer of police by virtue of subsection (2)(b) shall be given in writing.
- (4) A person who organises a public assembly and knowingly fails to comply with a condition imposed under this section is guilty of an offence, but it is a defence for him to prove that the failure arose from circumstances beyond his control.

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*Status: Point in time view as at 23/10/2010. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Public Order Act 1986, Section 14 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (5) A person who takes part in a public assembly and knowingly fails to comply with a condition imposed under this section is guilty of an offence, but it is a defence for him to prove that the failure arose from circumstances beyond his control.
- (6) A person who incites another to commit an offence under subsection (5) is guilty of an offence.
- (7) <sup>F1</sup> . . . . .
- (8) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale or both.
- (9) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (5) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (10) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (6) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale or both <sup>F2</sup> . . . .

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**Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 14(7) repealed (1.1.2006) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 111, 174(2), 178(8), Sch. 7 para. 26(8), [Sch 17 Pt. 2](#); S.I. 2005/3495, [art. 2\(m\)\(u\)\(xxvi\)](#)

**F2** Words in s. 14(10) omitted (E.W.) (1.10.2008) by [Serious Crime Act 2007 \(c. 27\)](#), ss. 63(2), 94(1), [Sch. 6 para. 58\(3\)\(c\)](#) (with Sch. 13 para. 5); S.I. 2008/2504, [art. 2\(a\)](#)

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** S. 14 excluded (E.W.) (1.8.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 132\(6\)](#), 178(8); S.I. 2005/1521, [art. 4\(1\)](#)

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