



# PUBLIC ORDER BILL FACTSHEET

## What Is the Public Order Bill & What Will It Do?

The Public order Bill seeks to target politically active citizens who organise protests and the people who attend protests/demonstrations. The Bill wants to criminalise the tactics that are used to make protests and campaigning successful. The Bill violates fundamental Human Rights and serves to create an undemocratic police state. Criminalising protesting is a threat to the democratic process, we urge you not to support The Public Order Bill. The Bill would bring in three major changes to the way protests are policed in England and Wales.

## Introducing four new criminal offences related to disruptive protest

Including: “Locking-on”; being equipped to “lock-on”; obstructing major transport works; and interfering with key national infrastructure.

## Extending police stop and search powers

The Bill would provide the police with new powers to stop and search people for items related to specified protest-related offences, essentially stopping the protest before it started.

## Introducing Serious Disruption Preventative Court Order

One of the most disturbing elements of the new Bill is the creation of Serious Disruption Prevention Orders. These orders can either be made following a protester’s conviction or on application to a Magistrates’ Court from a Chief Constable of a local police force.

You do not need to be convicted of an offence to be issued with one. They will be used to seek out and target people whom the police perceive as key organisers and to ban them from attending, organising, or promoting protests seen as “disruptive to two or more individuals or to an organisation” even if they have never been convicted of a crime. This could result in an inhumane electronic ankle tag being placed on a protester or organiser.