



Public Order Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 64

PART II

PROCESSIONS AND ASSEMBLIES

16 Interpretation.

In this Part—

“the City of London” means the City as defined for the purposes of the Acts relating to the City of London police;

“the metropolitan police district” means that district as defined in section 76 of the ^{M1}London Government Act 1963;

“public assembly” means an assembly of [^{F1}20][^{F1}2] or more persons in a public place which is wholly or partly open to the air;

“public place” means—

- (a) any highway, or in Scotland any road within the meaning of the ^{M2}Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and
- (b) any place to which at the material time the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission;

“public procession” means a procession in a public place.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 16: in definition of “public assembly”, reference to “20” substituted (E.W.) (20.1.2004) for reference to “2” by Anti-social [Behaviour Act 2003](#) (c. 38), **ss. 57, 93(1)**; S.I. 2003/3300, **art. 2(e)(i)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1963 c. 33.
M2 1984 c. 54.

Changes to legislation:

Public Order Act 1986, Section 16 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4B inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 1](#)