



Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 33

PART V

PUBLIC ORDER: [F1UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS AND] COLLECTIVE TRESPASS OR NUISANCE ON LAND

Powers to remove trespassers on land

61 Power to remove trespassers on land.

- (1) If the senior police officer present at the scene reasonably believes that two or more persons are trespassing on land and are present there with the common purpose of residing there for any period, that reasonable steps have been taken by or on behalf of the occupier to ask them to leave and—
- (a) that any of those persons[F1—
- (i) in the case of persons trespassing on land in England and Wales, has caused damage, disruption or distress (see subsection (10));
- (ii) in the case of persons trespassing on land in Scotland,]
- has caused damage to the land or to property on the land or used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour towards the occupier, a member of his family or an employee or agent of his, or
- (b) [F2in either case,] that those persons have between them six or more vehicles on the land,
- he may direct those persons, or any of them, to leave the land and to remove any vehicles or other property they have with them on the land.
- (2) Where the persons in question are reasonably believed by the senior police officer to be persons who were not originally trespassers but have become trespassers on the land, the officer must reasonably believe that the other conditions specified in subsection (1)

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are satisfied after those persons became trespassers before he can exercise the power conferred by that subsection.

- (3) A direction under subsection (1) above, if not communicated to the persons referred to in subsection (1) by the police officer giving the direction, may be communicated to them by any constable at the scene.
- (4) If a person knowing that a direction under subsection (1) above has been given which applies to him—
- (a) fails to leave the land as soon as reasonably practicable, or
 - (b) having left again enters the land as a trespasser within the [^{F3}prohibited period]

he commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale, or both.

[^{F4}(4ZA) The prohibited period is—

- (a) in the case of a person trespassing on land in England and Wales, the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which the direction was given;
- (b) in the case of a person trespassing on land in Scotland, the period of three months beginning with the day on which the direction was given.]

[^{F5}(4A) Where, as respects Scotland, the reason why these persons have become trespassers is that they have ceased to be entitled to exercise access rights by virtue of—

- (a) their having formed the common purpose mentioned in subsection (1) above; or
- (b) one or more of the conditions specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of that subsection having been satisfied,

the circumstances constituting that reason shall be treated, for the purposes of subsection (4) above, as having also occurred after these persons became trespassers.

(4B) In subsection (4A) above “access rights” has the meaning given by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2).]

^{F6}(5)

(6) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to show—

- (a) that he was not trespassing on the land, or
- (b) that he had a reasonable excuse for failing to leave the land as soon as reasonably practicable or, as the case may be, for again entering the land as a trespasser.

(7) In its application in England and Wales to common land this section has effect as if in the preceding subsections of it—

- (a) references to trespassing or trespassers were references to acts and persons doing acts which constitute either a trespass as against the occupier or an infringement of the commoners’ rights; and
- (b) references to “the occupier” included the commoners or any of them or, in the case of common land to which the public has access, the local authority as well as any commoner.

(8) Subsection (7) above does not—

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- (a) require action by more than one occupier; or
- (b) constitute persons trespassers as against any commoner or the local authority if they are permitted to be there by the other occupier.

(9) In this section—

[^{F7}“common land” means—

- (a) land registered as common land in a register of common land kept under Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006; and
- (b) land to which Part 1 of that Act does not apply and which is subject to rights of common as defined in that Act;]

“commoner” means a person with rights of common ^{M1}[^{F8}as so defined;];

“land” does not include—

- (a) buildings other than—
 - (i) agricultural buildings within the meaning of, in England and Wales, paragraphs 3 to 8 of Schedule 5 to the ^{M2}Local Government Finance Act 1988 or, in Scotland, section 7(2) of the ^{M3}Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956, or
 - (ii) scheduled monuments within the meaning of the ^{M4}Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
- (b) land [^{F9}in Scotland] forming part of—
 - ^{F10}(i)
 - (ii) a road within the meaning of the ^{M5}Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 unless it falls within the definitions in section 151(2)(a)(ii) or (b) (footpaths and cycle tracks) of that Act or is a bridleway within the meaning of section 47 of the ^{M6}Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967;

“the local authority”, in relation to common land, means any local authority which has powers in relation to the land under [^{F11}section 45 of the Commons Act 2006];

“occupier” (and in subsection (8) “the other occupier”) means—

- (a) in England and Wales, the person entitled to possession of the land by virtue of an estate or interest held by him; and
- (b) in Scotland, the person lawfully entitled to natural possession of the land;

“property”, in relation to damage to property on land, means—

- (a) in England and Wales, property within the meaning of section 10(1) of the ^{M7}Criminal Damage Act 1971; and
- (b) in Scotland, either—
 - (i) heritable property other than land; or
 - (ii) corporeal moveable property,

and “damage” includes the deposit of any substance capable of polluting the land;

“trespass” means, in the application of this section—

- (a) in England and Wales, subject to the extensions effected by subsection (7) above, trespass as against the occupier of the land;
- (b) in Scotland, entering, or as the case may be remaining on, land without lawful authority and without the occupier’s consent; and

“trespassing” and “trespasser” shall be construed accordingly;

“vehicle” includes—

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- (a) any vehicle, whether or not it is in a fit state for use on roads, and includes any chassis or body, with or without wheels, appearing to have formed part of such a vehicle, and any load carried by, and anything attached to, such a vehicle; and
- (b) a caravan as defined in section 29(1) of the ^{M8}Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;

and a person may be regarded for the purposes of this section as having a purpose of residing in a place notwithstanding that he has a home elsewhere.

[^{F12}(10) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a)(i)—

“damage” includes—

- (a) damage to the land;
- (b) damage to any property on the land not belonging to the persons trespassing;
- (c) damage to the environment (including excessive noise, smells, litter or deposits of waste);

“disruption” includes an interference with—

- (a) a person’s ability to access any services or facilities located on the land or otherwise make lawful use of the land, or
- (b) a supply of water, energy or fuel;

“distress” means distress caused by—

- (a) the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or
- (b) the display of any writing, sign, or other visible representation that is threatening, abusive or insulting.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 61(1)(a)(i)(ii) inserted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(3)(a)**, 208(5)(i)
- F2** Words in s. 61(1)(b) inserted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(3)(b)**, 208(5)(i)
- F3** Words in s. 61(4)(b) substituted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(4)**, 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))
- F4** S. 61(4ZA) inserted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(5)**, 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))
- F5** S 61(4A)(4B) inserted (S.) (9.2.2005) by Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2), ss. 99, 100(3)(4), **Sch. 2 para. 11** (with s. 100(2)); S.S.I. 2005/17, **art. 2(b)**
- F6** S. 61(5) repealed (E.W.) (1.1.2006) by Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c. 15), ss. 111, 174, 178, **Sch. 7 para. 31(2)**, **Sch. 17**; S.I. 2005/3495, **art. 2(1)(u)(xxv)** (subject to art. 2)
- F7** Words in s. 61(9) substituted (31.10.2011 for E.) by Commons Act 2006 (c. 26), s. 56, **Sch. 5 para. 5(a)** (with s. 60); S.I. 2011/2460, **art. 2(a)(i)** (with art. 3)
- F8** Words in s. 61(9) substituted (31.10.2011 for E.) by Commons Act 2006 (c. 26), s. 56, **Sch. 5 para. 5(b)** (with s. 60); S.I. 2011/2460, **art. 2(a)(i)** (with art. 3)
- F9** Words in s. 61(9) inserted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(6)(a)**, 208(5)(i)
- F10** Words in s. 61(9) omitted (28.6.2022) by virtue of Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. **84(6)(b)**, 208(5)(i)
- F11** Words in s. 61(9) substituted (31.10.2011 for E., 30.9.2021 for W.) by Commons Act 2006 (c. 26), s. 56, **Sch. 5 para. 5(c)** (with s. 60); S.I. 2011/2460, **art. 2(a)(i)** (with art. 3); S.I. 2021/1015, **art. 2(b)**

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F12 S. 61(10) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 84(7)**, 208(5)(i)

Marginal Citations

M1 1965 c. 64.
M2 1988 c. 41.
M3 1956 c. 60.
M4 1979 c. 46.
M5 1984 c. 54.
M6 1967 c. 86.
M7 1971 c. 48.
M8 1960 c. 62.

62 Supplementary powers of seizure.

(1) If a direction has been given under section 61 and a constable reasonably suspects that any person to whom the direction applies has, without reasonable excuse—

- (a) failed to remove any vehicle on the land which appears to the constable to belong to him or to be in his possession or under his control; or
- (b) entered the land as a trespasser with a vehicle within the ^{F13}prohibited period], the constable may seize and remove that vehicle.

^{F14}(1A) The prohibited period is—

- (a) in the case of a person trespassing on land in England and Wales, the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which the direction was given;
- (a) in the case of a person trespassing on land in Scotland, the period of three months beginning with the day on which the direction was given.]

(2) In this section, “trespasser” and “vehicle” have the same meaning as in section 61.

Textual Amendments

F13 Words in s. 62(1)(b) substituted (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 84(8)(a)**, 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))

F14 S. 62(1A) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 84(8)(b)**, 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))

^{F15}62A Power to remove trespassers: alternative site available

(1) If the senior police officer present at a scene reasonably believes that the conditions in subsection (2) are satisfied in relation to a person and land, he may direct the person—

- (a) to leave the land;
- (b) to remove any vehicle and other property he has with him on the land.

(2) The conditions are—

- (a) that the person and one or more others (“the trespassers”) are trespassing on the land;
- (b) that the trespassers have between them at least one vehicle on the land;
- (c) that the trespassers are present on the land with the common purpose of residing there for any period;

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- (d) if it appears to the officer that the person has one or more caravans in his possession or under his control on the land, that there is a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site for that caravan or each of those caravans;
 - (e) that the occupier of the land or a person acting on his behalf has asked the police to remove the trespassers from the land.
- (3) A direction under subsection (1) may be communicated to the person to whom it applies by any constable at the scene.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—
- (a) a police officer proposes to give a direction under subsection (1) in relation to a person and land, and
 - (b) it appears to him that the person has one or more caravans in his possession or under his control on the land.
- (5) The officer must consult every local authority within whose area the land is situated as to whether there is a suitable pitch for the caravan or each of the caravans on a relevant caravan site which is situated in the local authority's area.
- (6) In this section—
- “caravan” and “caravan site” have the same meanings as in Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
 - “relevant caravan site” means a caravan site which is—
 - (a) situated in the area of a local authority within whose area the land is situated, and
 - (b) managed by a relevant site manager;
 - “relevant site manager” means—
 - (a) a local authority within whose area the land is situated;
 - (aa) [^{F16}a private registered provider of social housing;]
 - (b) a registered social landlord;
 - “registered social landlord” means a body registered as a social landlord under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by order amend the definition of “relevant site manager” in subsection (6) by adding a person or description of person.
- (8) An order under subsection (7) must be made by statutory instrument and is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

Textual Amendments

F15 S. 62A inserted (E.W.) (27.2.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 60, 93; S.I. 2003/3300, art. 3(b)

F16 Words in s. 62A(6) inserted (1.4.2010) by The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/866), art. 1(2), Sch. 2 para. 80 (with art. 6, Sch. 3)

[^{F17} 62B Failure to comply with direction under section 62A: offences

- (1) A person commits an offence if he knows that a direction under section 62A(1) has been given which applies to him and—
 - (a) he fails to leave the relevant land as soon as reasonably practicable, or

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- (b) he enters any land in the area of the relevant local authority as a trespasser before the end of the relevant period with the intention of residing there.
- (2) The relevant period is the period of [^{F18}twelve] months starting with the day on which the direction is given.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section 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.
- (4) ^{F19}.....
- (5) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to show—
 - (a) that he was not trespassing on the land in respect of which he is alleged to have committed the offence, or
 - (b) that he had a reasonable excuse—
 - (i) for failing to leave the relevant land as soon as reasonably practicable, or
 - (ii) for entering land in the area of the relevant local authority as a trespasser with the intention of residing there, or
 - (c) that, at the time the direction was given, he was under the age of 18 years and was residing with his parent or guardian.]

Textual Amendments

- F17** S. 62B inserted (E.W.) (27.2.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 61, 93; S.I. 2003/3300, art. 3(b)
- F18** Word in s. 62B(2) substituted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. 84(9), 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))
- F19** S. 62B(4) repealed (1.1.2006) by Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c. 15), ss. 111, 174, 178, Sch. 7 para. 31(2), Sch. 17; S.I. 2005/3495, {2(1)(u)(xxxvi)} (subject to art. 2(2))

[^{F20}62C Failure to comply with direction under section 62A: seizure

- (1) This section applies if a direction has been given under section 62A(1) and a constable reasonably suspects that a person to whom the direction applies has, without reasonable excuse—
 - (a) failed to remove any vehicle on the relevant land which appears to the constable to belong to him or to be in his possession or under his control; or
 - (b) entered any land in the area of the relevant local authority as a trespasser with a vehicle before the end of the relevant period with the intention of residing there.
- (2) The relevant period is the period of [^{F21}twelve] months starting with the day on which the direction is given.
- (3) The constable may seize and remove the vehicle.]

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Textual Amendments

- F20** S. 62C inserted (E.W.) (27.2.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 62(1), 93; S.I. 2003/3300, art. 3(b)
- F21** Word in s. 62C(2) substituted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), ss. 84(10), 208(5)(i) (with s. 84(12))

[^{F22} 62D Common land: modifications

- (1) In their application to common land sections 62A to 62C have effect with these modifications.
- (2) References to trespassing and trespassers have effect as if they were references to acts, and persons doing acts, which constitute—
 - (a) a trespass as against the occupier, or
 - (b) an infringement of the commoners' rights.
- (3) References to the occupier—
 - (a) in the case of land to which the public has access, include the local authority and any commoner;
 - (b) in any other case, include the commoners or any of them.
- (4) Subsection (1) does not—
 - (a) require action by more than one occupier, or
 - (b) constitute persons trespassers as against any commoner or the local authority if they are permitted to be there by the other occupier.
- (5) In this section “common land”, “commoner” and “the local authority” have the meanings given by section 61.]

Textual Amendments

- F22** S. 62D inserted (27.2.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 63, 93; S.I. 2003/3300, art. 3(b)

[^{F23} 62E Sections 62A to 62D: interpretation

- (1) Subsections (2) to (8) apply for the interpretation of sections 62A to 62D and this section.
- (2) “Land” does not include buildings other than—
 - (a) agricultural buildings within the meaning of paragraphs 3 to 8 of Schedule 5 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988, or
 - (b) scheduled monuments within the meaning of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- (3) “Local authority” means—
 - (a) in Greater London, a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London;
 - (b) in England outside Greater London, a county council, a district council or the Council of the Isles of Scilly;

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- (c) in Wales, a county council or a county borough council.
- (4) “Occupier”, “trespass”, “trespassing” and “trespasser” have the meanings given by section 61 in relation to England and Wales.
- (5) “The relevant land” means the land in respect of which a direction under section 62A(1) is given.
- (6) “The relevant local authority” means—
 - (a) if the relevant land is situated in the area of more than one local authority (but is not in the Isles of Scilly), the district council or county borough council within whose area the relevant land is situated;
 - (b) if the relevant land is situated in the Isles of Scilly, the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
 - (c) in any other case, the local authority within whose area the relevant land is situated.
- (7) “Vehicle” has the meaning given by section 61.
- (8) A person may be regarded as having a purpose of residing in a place even if he has a home elsewhere.]

Textual Amendments

F23 S. 62E inserted (E.W.) (27.2.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 64, 93; S.I. 2003/3300, art. 3(b)

[^{F24}62F Guidance

- (1) The Secretary of State must issue guidance relating to the exercise of—
 - (a) the functions of police officers in England and Wales, and
 - (b) the functions of constables in England and Wales,
 under the provisions mentioned in subsection (2).
- (2) Those provisions are—
 - (a) sections 60C to 62E, and
 - (b) regulations under section 67 relating to vehicles seized under section 62(1) or section 62C(3).
- (3) Police officers in England and Wales and constables in England and Wales must have regard to the guidance when exercising any of those functions conferred on them.
- (4) The Secretary of State may from time to time revise the guidance.
- (5) The Secretary of State must arrange for the guidance and any revised guidance issued under this section to be published in such manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (6) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a copy of any guidance or revised guidance published under subsection (5).]

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Textual Amendments

F24 [S. 62F](#) inserted (E.W.) (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 85, 208(5)(i)**

Changes to legislation:

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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. 51(10)(a)(ia) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 11\(3\)](#)