

New police powers to crack down on unauthorised encampments come into force

Trespassers who set up camp illegally on other people's land or in local communities could face up to three months in prison from Tuesday 28 June, as a new criminal offence becomes law.

Cracking down on antisocial people causing misery by setting up illegal camps and refusing to remove their vehicles, delivers on a key government manifesto commitment.

Made possible by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, on Tuesday police in England and Wales will be given new powers to limit the harms caused by such unauthorised encampments and new statutory guidance will be published.

Police will now be able to ban trespassers from returning to a patch of land for a year, rather than just three months.

And the definition of harm will be broadened, so that police can take more decisive action to tackle unauthorised encampments when necessary.

They will be able to intervene where unauthorised encampments are causing environmental damage or distress to the community – not just the landowner.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

No one should have unchecked rights to trespass on other people's land, or cause misery in communities without consequence.

The position in law is now very clear – trespassers must move their vehicles when asked to do so, or face jail time and a hefty fine.

Illegal encampments cause misery for thousands of people: they damage and pollute environments and often result in local residents facing unacceptable intimidation on their own doorstep.

Delivering on our manifesto commitments, this government will always stand on the side of the law-abiding majority and on the side of the police.

Under the new guidance, the harms potentially caused by unauthorised encampments could include – but are not limited to – instances where:

- there is excessive littering, noise or smell – including from bonfire smoke

- a local resident is verbally abused or intimidated, or fears leaving their house to avoid walking past an encampment
- local communities are prevented from accessing sports fields, parks or car parks
- property on the land, or the land itself has been damaged – including farmland

For the first time, unauthorised encampments on highways will be covered, as well as on public and private land.

The new criminal offence will be punishable by a prison sentence of up to 3 months, or a fine of up to £2,500, or both, and/or seizure of the vehicle.

The conditions of the offence are clear – if people leave when asked to by the police or landowner, they will not risk having their vehicle seized, a fine or prison time.

Statistics showed that the number of authorised traveller pitches had increased by 41% from January 2010 to January 2020 and the government continues its work to provide even more authorised sites for travellers to reside upon. This includes a new fund recently launched that will provide £10 million of capital grant funding for 2022/2023, to support local authorities in England in improving accommodation provision for travellers.

[Change of British High Commissioner to The Bahamas: Mr Thomas Hartley](#)

Press release

Mr Thomas Hartley has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in succession to Mrs Sarah Dickson OBE.



Mr Thomas Hartley has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in succession to Mrs Sarah Dickson OBE who is

going to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Hartley will take up his appointment during August 2022.

Full name: Thomas Hartley

Married to: Jennie Hartley

Children: Three

CURRICULUM VITAE

Date	Role
2018 to present	Accra, Deputy High Commissioner
2015 to 2018	Beirut, First Secretary. Washington, Middle East Foreign Policy Team, Summer 2017
2013 to 2015	FCO, Team Leader, Multilateral Policy Directorate
2012 to 2013	Home Office, Deputy Director, Organisational Change
2011 to 2013	Hartley & Son (career break)
2010	Home Office, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Baroness Neville-Jones DCMG, Security Minister
2009 to 2010	Home Office, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Admiral Lord West DSO, Security Minister
2006 to 2009	Ministry of Defence, Team Leader, Strategy Directorate
2005	Civil Service Fast Stream

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[Norfolk man fined after fishing illegally during close season](#)

Press release

Angler spotted just inside pause period to allow fish to spawn and develop.



The angler didn't abide by the rules on when he could fish

Andrzej Krainski, of Eastern Road, Watton, in Norfolk, was caught fishing during the close season on 15 March 2022 at Swanton Morley on the River Wensum.

The case was heard at Folkestone magistrates' court, where Krainski pleaded guilty by post. The court fined him £220 and imposed a £34 victim surcharge and £135 in costs.

Krainski was caught fishing on the first day of the 2022 river fishing close season, which is in place to allow an uninterrupted spawning period and helps to protect vulnerable species. It also provides an opportunity for the Environment Agency and partners to carry out projects up and down the country to further enhance habitats vital for improving fish-spawning.

Lesley Robertson, enforcement team leader for the Environment Agency in East Anglia, said:

This case shows we pursue offenders through the courts and won't hesitate to take enforcement action where anglers break rules. Anyone found fishing illegally may face prosecution and a fine of up to £2,500.

We urge anyone with information about illegal fishing to contact us on 0800 807060.

The Environment Agency carries out enforcement work all year round and is supported by police forces and the [Angling Trust](#). Fisheries enforcement work is intelligence-led, targeting known hot-spots and where illegal fishing is reported.

Anyone with information about illegal fishing activities should report it to our incident hotline: 0800 807060. You can also report it to [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111.

Andrzej Krainski pleaded guilty by post to breaching National Byelaw 2 of the Environment Agency Byelaws made on 12 July 2010. The offence was contrary to National Byelaw 6, confirmed 23 March 2010, made pursuant to sections 210 and 211, schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991. He was sentenced at Folkestone magistrates' court on 27 May 2022.

The closed coarse fishing season runs from 15 March to 15 June inclusive.

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Blueprint for new immigration removal centre

The Home Office has announced initial plans for a new Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Oxfordshire.

Today (28 June 2022) the department has started the first stages of the procurement to operate a new IRC on the site of the former Campsfield House.

The new IRC, which will be a secure facility and will accommodate men only, will not be operational until at least late 2023. The Home Office will be engaging local authorities, the local MP, police and other partners as plans are developed.

Tom Pursglove MP, Minister for Justice and Tackling Illegal Migration, said:

Those who have abused the immigration system, including foreign national criminals who have devastated the lives of their victims, should be in no doubt of our determination to remove them. This is what the British public rightly expects.

Opening a new immigration removal centre, as part of the New Plan for Immigration, will help ensure there is sufficient detention capacity to safely accommodate individuals ahead of removal.

Detention is an essential part of a fair but firm immigration system and is used to ensure those who have no right to be in the UK, including foreign criminals, are returned, if they refuse to leave voluntarily. Individuals are only returned when the Home Office and, where applicable, the courts deem it is safe to do so.

Once operational, the centre will provide local employment opportunities. Campsfield is anticipated to accommodate up to 400 men, foreign criminals and immigration offenders, in a combination of refurbished and new-build accommodation.

The welfare of all those in immigration detention is of the upmost importance. We will therefore take into account Stephen Shaw's reviews on welfare in detention as Campsfield is redeveloped. As with all other IRCs, the centre will have a full range of primary healthcare facilities.

Today's announcement comes as the new powers as part of the Nationality and Borders Act come into force which will strengthen our ability to deter illegal immigration, tackle criminality and secure our borders.

Hajj pilgrims urged to be mindful of MERS-CoV advice

News story

UKHSA is reminding Hajj pilgrims to be aware of the risk of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



The risk of infection to UK residents travelling to the Middle East remains very low – the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) do not currently advise any travel restrictions to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in relation to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV).

We urge pilgrims returning from Hajj and Umrah to look out for these symptoms:

- fever
- coughing
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

If individuals experience these symptoms within 14 days of leaving the KSA, they should call their GP immediately or NHS 111 and mention their travel history.

Camels can be a source of infection, so avoiding contact with them as well as not consuming any camel products will help you from contracting MERS-CoV.

MERS-CoV can also spread person-to-person if there is close contact, so it is important to practise good hand and respiratory hygiene – this includes covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing and washing your hands with soap and water regularly.

Dr Gavin Dabrera, lead for MERS-CoV at UKHSA, said:

We strongly advise travellers to avoid contact with camels and consumption of camel products in the KSA and to practise good hand

hygiene.

Pilgrims returning from Hajj and Umrah with symptoms of fever and cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of leaving the KSA, should call their GP immediately or NHS 111 and report their travel.

Dr Dipti Patel, director of NaTHNaC, said:

Our [information sheet for pilgrims](#) includes information on health regulations, vaccine requirements and recommendations and other general health advice for those planning to travel for Hajj and Umrah.

Pilgrims are strongly advised to follow our specific guidance about staying safe and healthy when travelling.

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