

Boost for high streets and businesses as markets and outdoor marquees allowed permanently

- Local hospitality businesses no longer need planning permission to put up marquees on their land and councils will no longer need planning permission to hold an outdoor market
- Measures originally introduced during the pandemic will now be made permanent following public consultation
- This will draw more people to high streets and town centres and boost local businesses

High streets and local business are set to benefit from changes to planning rules, which mean markets can be held more often and marquees put up in pub and restaurant gardens without the need for planning permission, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced today (20 December 2021).

The changes to permitted development rights, first introduced last year as a temporary measure to boost high streets and small businesses during national restrictions, are being made permanent following a public consultation.

Pubs, cafes and restaurants will now be able to install gazebos on their own land without planning permission, helping them to better make use of their outside space all year round. Councils will also be able to hold street markets as required without the need for a planning application, attracting more people to high streets and town centres and boosting local businesses.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said:

The changes we introduced last year supported our town centres and high streets during national restrictions, making sure businesses could stay open and helping to instil a sense of community in our local areas.

Making these measures permanent will help business and communities to build back better from the pandemic and are just one part of our vision to transform towns and cities across England into thriving places to work, visit and live.

Craig Beaumont, Chief of External Affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses, said:

Today's announcement is a positive, sensible deregulatory measure. It permanently removes barriers for small businesses to do things

that we all love in our local areas, and so small firms will be pleased to see this.

As we look to keep going through the Omicron wave, this will be something that supports the Spring economic recovery, giving a boost to firms on the high street, in retail, in pubs and restaurants, in markets, in small-scale events and in the weddings industry that have all been affected so deeply by COVID.

Kate Nicholls CEO of UKHospitality said:

Marquees and other structures provided a lifeline for some businesses during the pandemic, evidencing the value of covered outdoor spaces to hospitality venues.

Today's announcement is a really positive move to rid businesses of an administrative burden and encouraging better use of outdoor space – for many venues it will expedite future recovery and growth.

Historic visitor attractions and hospitality businesses operating in listed buildings will be able to install a gazebo for 120 days in a 12-month period. This will provide additional flexibility while minimising the impacts to heritage sites.

The permitted development right allowing councils and health services to adapt their facilities more easily is being extended for a further year (until 31 December 2022). The right will continue to support the response to the pandemic, including enabling pop-up vaccination centres to support the government's booster drive.

Today's announcement is just one of the ways the government is supporting local businesses and high streets to build back from the pandemic, including introducing protections for commercial tenants and the extension of the streamlined process for pavement licensing, enabling businesses to continue to provide al fresco dining.

The permitted development rights (PDR) introduced in 2020 to 2021 that are now being made permanent following a public consultation. These measures will apply to England.

1. The Right for markets to be held by or on behalf of local councils

Originally introduced in June 2020, this PDR allowed markets to be held by or on behalf of local councils for an unlimited amount of days, including the provision of moveable structures related to this use.

This measure, which supported the use of outdoor public spaces and the reopening of the high street, will now be made permanent.

The right excludes markets on sites designated as Scheduled Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

2. Rights for moveable structures in the grounds of pubs, cafes, restaurants and historic visitor attractions

Pubs, cafes and restaurants will be able to erect a moveable structure for an unlimited number of days without the need for a planning application .

Listed pubs, restaurants, cafes and historic visitor attractions will be able to erect a moveable structure for 120 days in a 12-month period, subject to prior approval by the local council.

This will ensure we protect historic assets whilst also making best use of their outdoor spaces to operate in.

These rights exclude markets on sites designated as Scheduled Monuments.

Additional measures apply to all moveable structures to minimise impacts on surrounding communities, including limits to size, height and distance to residential boundaries.

These measures, introduced through PDRs, are separate to changes to pavement licenses introduced last year. Pavement licenses allow hospitality businesses to place furniture, such as tables and chairs, on the pavement outside their premises the PDR for movable structures allows businesses to install marquees in gardens or outside areas on their own land.

No Christmas tipples for 770 alcohol-tagged offenders

- Alcohol bans mean mulled wine and brandy are off the menu for offenders with drink problems
- Alcohol tags monitoring around 770 offenders this Christmas
- New technology is helping the Probation Service crackdown on alcohol-fuelled crime.

The tags enforce alcohol bans either handed down by a judge or by the Probation Service as an extra licence condition for those coming out of prison.

Alcohol plays a part in 39 per cent of all violent crime in the UK, including domestic abuse which charities say rises significantly during the festive period.

Offenders with an alcohol ban have stayed sober on 97 percent of the days

they were tagged but those who do drink face returning to court or prison for further punishment.

Alcohol tags have proved an important new tool helping the Probation Service to keep the public safe since first used in Wales last October.

Since then their use has expanded to England and the Government recently announced plans to use them on prison leavers. Over 12,000 offenders will have to wear an alcohol tag over the next three years.

Crime, Policing and Probation Minister Kit Malthouse said:

Alcohol-fuelled violence ruins too many lives and families and creates mayhem in our town centres. It is a sad reality that over Christmas we see a worrying spike in domestic abuse and crimes fuelled by drink.

Sobriety tags have already brought enormous benefit helping offenders change their ways and the Probation Service to clamp down on this behaviour and protect victims from further violence.

Figures show that of all higher risk offenders managed by probation officers in the community, around 20 per cent had an alcohol problem.

Alcohol tags have been available for judges and magistrates to impose on offenders serving community sentences since last October.

Since November, as part of a national roll-out, the tags have been used on offenders coming out of prison under Probation Service supervision in Wales. The scheme will be rolled out to England next summer.

The tags help probation officers keep a closer eye on offenders' behaviour, support them to turn their backs on crime and provide offenders with the incentive to break bad habits.

The Government is investing £183 million to expand electronic monitoring over the next three years to improve public safety – the number of people tagged at any one time will double from around 13,500 this year to approximately 25,000 by 2025.

[Collision between a tram and a pedestrian at Fleetwood Road](#)

News story

Investigation into a collision between a tram and a pedestrian at Fleetwood Road, Blackpool, 24 November 2021.



The pedestrian crossing at which the collision took place

At 18:10 hrs on 24 November 2021, a tram on the Blackpool tram system struck a pedestrian, who sustained serious injuries as a result. The pedestrian later died.

The accident occurred at a pedestrian crossing located within the segregated section of the tramway which lies beyond the road junction of Fleetwood Road and Queen's Promenade in Cleveleys, Blackpool. Although the junction itself is controlled by road traffic lights, the pedestrian crossing where the accident occurred is not of a controlled type.

The tram involved in the accident had just departed Anchorsholme Lane tram stop and was heading southbound towards Starr Gate when the accident occurred. CCTV images show that road traffic at the junction had stopped to allow the tram to pass over the junction and into the segregated section of the tramway.

Our investigation will seek to identify the sequence of events which led to the accident. It will also consider:

- The actions of those involved.
- The design and configuration of the crossing which the pedestrian was using.
- How the design and operation of the crossing was risk assessed.
- The relevant legislation and industry guidance which deals with the design and configuration of pedestrian crossings on tramways.
- Any underlying factors.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry or by the industry's regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

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Published 20 December 2021

[A Christmas stocking for East Anglian rivers](#)

Press release

Rivers and fisheries in Norfolk and Bedfordshire have received an early Christmas present of 17,400 fish being released as part of a yearly stocking programme.



A fisheries officer releasing fish into the river Ivel.

Officers have been travelling to the Environment Agency Calverton fish farm to pick up 1 and 2 year old fish which have been bred there.

15,000 fish which consisted of 5,000 chub, 5,000 dace and 5,000 roach have been added to the River Thet in Norfolk. The restocking comes as part of a recovery plan following a pollution incident in 2018.

A fisheries officer holding a barbel.

1,412 barbel went into the River Ivel at Biggleswade Mill and Blunham gauging weir. 12 of these barbel were given blue dye marks on their stomach. This is done so officers can identify some of the fish that have been stocked so they can evaluate how successful the stocking has been. Anglers are encouraged to take a picture of these marked fish, weigh them, and get in touch.

1,000 crucian carp were distributed between 2 fisheries in Norfolk and Buckinghamshire.

Kye Jerrom, a fisheries specialist, said:

The purpose of fish stocking is to enhance and develop our rivers.

Our aim is to create a river that can manage natural predators and support angling.

Every penny made from fishing licence income is spent on making improvements to rivers to benefit anglers.

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[Analysis in Government Award winners 2021!](#)

Celebrating all our star analysts, the Analysis in Government Awards ceremony 2021 was a truly inspirational event.

“The #AiGAwards21 are a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate fantastic work being done across the Analysis Function”, Adrian Richards Director of Data and Analysis, Ministry of Justice opened the ceremony along with Jane Whittaker, Director of Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence, HM Revenue & Customs who both shared well-deserved accolades for everyone shortlisted.

With 135 high-quality nominations to choose from, we are super-proud of all nominees and so, without further ado, we are proud to announce our winners, runners up and highly commended entries for 2021.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond Award for Excellence

Winner

Stephen Simpkin – Data Science Fellow Superhero, Essex County Council

[Stephen Simpkin, winner's blog: Excellence in Government Analytics award](#)

Runner up

Amy Thomas – Improving border security through innovative and collaborative analysis, Home Office

Highly commended

Gary Brown – Collaborations for Methodological excellence, Office for National Statistics and

Nikki Shorrocks – Data Science capability and community work, Department for Health and Social Care

Innovative methods

Winner

NHS Early Warning System and NHS use of Oxford Open ABM – NHS England and NHS Improvement

Runner up

GCSE attainment and lifetime earnings – Department for Education

Highly commended

Estimating vehicle and pedestrian activity from town and city traffic cameras – Office for National Statistics and

Quantifying the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination programme on hospitalisations: A control cohort study using data linkage – NHS England and NHS Improvement

Communication

Winner

Scotland's Population 2020 – Statistical Promotion and Analysis team, National Records of Scotland

Runner up

Measuring migration: The story behind the headlines – Centre for International Migration and Digital Publishing, Office for National Statistics

Highly commended

Global Trade Outlook – Futures Research and Analysis team, Department for International Trade and

LG Inform COVID-19 and Other Themed Reports – LG Inform Research and Information Team, Local Government Association

Inclusion

Winner

Sally Davis – Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion, Ministry of Defence

Runner up

AF Shadow Board members – Analysis Function People Shadow Board, Cross-Government

Highly commended

Lucy Charlton – ORR Diversity and Inclusion Network, Office of Rail and Road and

Kim Swain – Champion for improving inclusivity, Welsh Government

Impact

Winner

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme team – NHS COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities tool, NHS England and NHS Improvement

Runner up

Policy Evidence and Analysis team – ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN), Office for National Statistics

Highly commended

Health and Social Care levy Policy Analysis Team – Health and Social Care levy, HM Revenue and Customs and

Loy Chen and Steve Smith – Irrecoverable income insurance for local government, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Collaboration

Winner

Public Health Data Asset team – Public Health Data Asset (PHDA) project, Office for National Statistics

Runners up

Faster Indicators team – Economic activity and Social change in the UK, Office for National Statistics and

Statistics Modernisation team – Explore Education Statistics, Department for Education

Highly commended

Data and Platform team – COVID-19 Weekly Report and Dashboard, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

An exclusive digital goodie bag

Not only do our winners, runners up and highly commended entries have the pride of being recognised for these prestigious awards, but you can also share your success with your colleagues with your very own exclusive digital goodie bag.

In your pack you'll find assets to help you share your success and pride in being a government analyst and celebrate your success.

- Teams backgrounds: Why not use them in your day-to-day meetings
- Email signature button: Adding the hyperlinked AiGA button to your email signature will let everyone you email know about your success
- Twitter banner: Share your success with your Twitter followers