

# Government extends legal action against protesters obstructing the A20 and strategic routes to the Port of Dover

- National Highways has secured a further interim injunction to prevent protesters from occupying the A20 and strategic roads linked to the Port of Dover
- those who breach the injunction will be in contempt of court and at risk of imprisonment and an unlimited fine
- ministers condemn activists for undermining their own cause, endangering lives and taking emergency services away from communities

A further injunction has been approved today (24 September 2021) by the High Court against climate activists who have been carrying out a string of disruptive demonstrations along major roads and at the vital Port of Dover, attempting to cause blockages and travel chaos for tens of thousands of people.

With immediate effect, protesters will be in contempt of court if they breach the terms of an interim injunction won by National Highways today.

Breach of the injunction can be punishable by up to 2 years in prison and an unlimited fine, serving as a deterrent for anyone thinking of rejoining the disruptive action.

National Highways [previously secured an injunction against the protesters](#) for the guerrilla tactics used by activists on the M25 and intends to return to court to extend the injunction and potentially seek additional powers of arrest.

The government's intervention will help dissuade activists from carrying out any further disruption.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

We are absolutely committed to protecting the right to peaceful protest, but it is unacceptable that people cannot go about their day-to-day businesses and that businesses or critical supplies should be put on a knife's edge because of the reckless actions of a few protesters.

I commend the work of Kent Police and the Port of Dover authorities today to quickly resolve the issue and keep our critical supplies moving and I will do everything to prevent these sorts of guerrilla tactics from putting people's lives at risk and keeping our

emergency services away from the communities that need them.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

The British public are rightly furious that the behaviours of a selfish minority have been putting lives at risk and causing untold disruption on our roads and now at Dover. We will not tolerate the recklessness of these few activists and the police continue to have our full support in cracking down on their dangerous behaviour.

The public and the police want officers back serving their communities and cutting crime, not dealing with people happy to put the safety and needs of others at risk.

The government is already ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030, investing billions of pounds to help industry and drivers make the switch to cleaner vehicles, and will continue its work to install thousands of chargepoints and boost the development of new technologies to meet ambitious net zero goals.

Campaign group Insulate Britain's recent demonstrations have led to considerable disruption on one of the UK's busiest motorways – creating a backlog of traffic and more pollution – as well as blocking the emergency services from reaching those whose lives are in danger.

Over 200 people involved with the demonstrations have already been arrested and previous actions of Extinction Rebellion – of which Insulate Britain is an offshoot – have cost the UK taxpayer £50 million.

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## [Gove sees levelling up in action across the north-east](#)

On his first official visit as new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Michael Gove today (24 September 2021) toured towns across the north-east to see first-hand how ambitious local plans are being put into action to help level up the region.

In Darlington, Mr Gove toured the National Horizons Centre which is bringing together industry and academia in a world-class centre of excellence for biosciences.

The Secretary of State also visited Teesworks industrial zone in Redcar where he toured part of the 4,500 acre site and heard more about plans for a Freeport, which will boost manufacturing, jobs and investment in the region.

Finally he travelled to the town of Thornaby to see how £23.9 million government investment from the Towns Fund is being used to create more homes, improve local transport and generate new opportunities for local people.

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Michael Gove MP said:

It's been fantastic to see how our levelling up agenda is boosting opportunity, employment and pride right across the country.

From Teesworks in the north-east, creating thousands of jobs, and the new town centre improvements in Thornaby, which will make it a more vibrant place to visit, today I've seen first hand the excellent work that shows how we are building back better from the pandemic and making a real difference to people's lives.

Across the country, levelling up is spreading opportunity, boosting living standards and improving public services.

Our White Paper which will be published in the coming months will help drive forward our central mission to level up every corner of the UK. This will be backed by the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund which will support and create jobs, boost skills and help improve the look and feel of towns and cities across the UK.

National Horizons Centre (NHC) is a centre of excellence for biosciences, part of Teesside University. It received 17.5 million from the Local Growth Fund to help discover diseases earlier, develop novel treatments, and deliver life changing medicines to those in need, quicker, safer and more affordably.

The government has invested over £200 million in Teesworks industrial zone in Redcar, including over £50 million from this department, to support site management, demolition and land remediation to make 2000 acres ready for investment. The development of the site is expected to create 20,000 jobs by 2035.

The Teesside Freeport was one of eight announced in March 2021 and will be the biggest Freeport in the UK covering a range of sites across the Tees Valley.

Over the past year, we have also supported 101 towns across England through the £2.4 billion Towns Fund. Darlington received £22.3 million from the Towns Fund to improve the T-Levels offer in the town, kickstarting careers in a number of fields. Redcar received £25 million to help them transform the town centre and seafront. In Thornaby, which is a town on the River Tees, they are creating new homes, regenerating the town centre and boosting local skills and employability with the help of £23.9 million.

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# Porto v Liverpool match: travel advice

World news story

Advice for fans travelling to Portugal for the Porto v Liverpool football match in September.



**Match: Tuesday 28 September: Porto v Liverpool  
(Porto, 8pm local time)**

Venue: Estádio do Dragão, Porto

As well as this advice, check our [travel advice for Portugal](#).

## **Passports and visas**

- the rules on passport validity for travel to the EU have changed. Use this [tool to check your passport](#) is still valid for your trip
- if you lose your passport, you will need an [emergency travel document](#) to get home. You will have to collect the passport from the Consulate in Lisbon or Portimão, or wait until it is sent to you by courier
- travel from Porto to Lisbon takes 4 hours and to Portimão at least 8 hours; an emergency travel document is only valid for travel back to the UK and costs £100
- carry a copy of your passport or take a photograph and keep it on your phone. This will help if you need to get a replacement document

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) travel

- complete a [passenger locator form](#) before you travel; it may help to speed things up on arrival
- if you do not have an EU digital COVID vaccination certificate, get a PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure, or an antigen test taken within 48 hours of departure. Show your negative results when you board your flight
- you should not use the NHS testing service to get tested for travel. Take a private test and make sure it states that you've had a PCR or antigen test and gives your name, date of birth, the date and time the sample was collected and the date of the result
- border control checks take time; have your passport and COVID-19 test ready to show
- requirements can change at short notice. Check the [Entry requirements](#) section in our travel advice and sign up for [email alerts](#)

## Public spaces and services

- follow the rules on social distancing: keep a social distance of 2 metres, use a face mask and clean your hands regularly
- all restaurants, bars and cafés must close by 2am
- nightclubs are open for the purpose of serving drinks, but no dancing is allowed
- drinking alcohol in public is only allowed while seated in restaurants and cafés
- see the [Coronavirus section](#) in our travel advice for the latest information on COVID-19 restrictions in Portugal

## Getting to Porto

- the nearest airport is Porto

- if you're arriving at another airport, there are [trains](#) and [buses](#) to Porto; the main railway station in Porto is Campanhã and the bus station is at Campo 24 de Agosto
- if you're driving, carry your passport, UK driving licence, car logbook and insurance or car rental contract; the police can fine you on-the-spot if you don't have these documents
- there are tolls on Portuguese motorways; don't use the green lanes (VV – Via Verde) at toll pay points; these are for motorists who subscribe to the automatic pay system; some roads in the north of Portugal and in the Algarve have electronic tolls (SCUTs); check [how to pay for tolls](#) before you travel
- the traffic accident rate in Portugal is very high; traffic police carry out random spot checks and can test for alcohol and drugs; the speed limit on Portuguese motorways is 120km/h

## Getting around Porto

- get to the city centre from the airport by underground (Metro); take the purple line to Trindade, then the yellow line to Aliados or São Bento
- taxis are beige-coloured or black and green; you can flag down taxis in Portugal. COVID-19 rules require passengers to wear masks on all public transport

## Getting to the stadium

- the [Estádio do Dragão](#) in Porto has a Metro station
- you can buy a day saver for unlimited travel or a ticket card from vending machines in the entrance hall
- swipe the card before getting on the train to validate your journey. Buy one card per person
- see [Porto Metro's website](#) for more information

## At the match

- access to the stadium can be slow: there will be ticket and COVID-19

test checks, and searches will be carried out

- no alcohol, sharp objects (including umbrellas), air horns or loudspeakers, fireworks or flares, bottles or cans, drums or video cameras are allowed in the stadium
- you can be breathalysed at the stadium and refused entry if you are too drunk to keep yourself safe

## Returning to the UK

### Tips

- beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers; only carry what you need. Take care of your passport – you can't return without it
- If you use the Metro in Porto, swipe your ticket before you get on the train and keep it so you can top it up and show the ticket inspector
- get travel insurance and don't forget to bring your [European or Global Health Insurance Card](#). If you need medical treatment, you'll need to show it to hospital staff

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Telephone: +351 21 392 4000 (also for out of hours emergencies)

For more information, please visit [British Embassy Lisbon website](#)

## Emergency services numbers

112

### Further information

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# Your top 5 questions on energy prices answered

News story

Use our short list of questions and answers (FAQ) to find out more about energy prices and energy suppliers.



## **I'm worried there's not enough gas?**

You don't need to be. While global wholesale gas prices are currently high we are confident that the UK's security of energy supply is secure now and over the winter.

## **Am I going to be left without power if my supplier goes bust, or do I have to find a new supplier myself?**

No you don't. Even if your supplier stops operating, Ofgem – the independent energy regulator – will automatically switch you onto a new supplier so there will be no interruption to your supply of energy.

It isn't unusual for energy suppliers to exit the market so there's a well-rehearsed system in place to protect households and ensure your gas and electricity keeps running.

## **If I join a new supplier, aren't my energy bills going to increase?**

Customers of failed suppliers who are switched to a new supplier are protected by the [Energy Price Cap](#).

This is a government scheme which protects millions of people from sudden increases in global gas prices and limits the amount an energy supplier can charge those on default or standard variable rates.

Suppliers cannot charge customers of failed suppliers more than the level of the price cap.



Major energy suppliers also purchase much of their wholesale supplies many months in advance, giving protection to them and their customers from short-term price spikes.

We also have numerous other schemes available to support vulnerable and low-income households including the [Warm Home Discount](#), [Winter Fuel Payments](#) and [Cold Weather Payments](#).

## **Is the Energy Price Cap going to massively increase this winter?**

The Energy Price Cap is reviewed twice a year based on the latest estimated costs of supplying energy and it was announced in the summer that from 1 October, the cap would rise due to higher wholesale gas prices.

However, the next time the price cap is due to be updated is April 2022 which means customers who it protects needn't worry about it increasing before then.

## **Why don't we store more gas in the UK?**

Gas storage capacity has little bearing on the price of gas. Some other countries do store gas to ensure their own security of supply, but the UK benefits from having access to a highly diverse and secure sources of gas from the North Sea and reliable import partners like Norway.

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## **[UN Human Rights Council 48: UK statement for the Item 4 General Debate](#)**

Thank you, Madam President,

Let me start with China. We remain seriously concerned about systematic human rights violations in Xinjiang. The evidence is compelling and far-reaching. UN experts must have immediate and unfettered access to Xinjiang. We share the High Commissioner's regret that she has not been granted access to date and we welcome her plans for an assessment of the available information later this year.

We condemn the military coup in Myanmar, and we call on the military junta to return power to the democratically elected government, and end its serious human rights violations.

The human rights picture in South Sudan remains deeply worrying, particularly given government attempts to stifle peaceful protest. The Commission on Human Rights remains a necessary mandate.

Russia must uphold the human rights of all, including the right to freedom of expression and the right to free elections. Russian authorities' measures to marginalise civil society, silence independent media, and prevent independent opposition candidates from participating in the State Duma elections undermine political plurality and disregard Russia's international commitments.

Syrians continue to suffer horrific human rights violations and risk being killed by the regime and its allies. There must be accountability for victims and perpetrators must face justice. We thank the OHCHR for its important reporting on civilian casualties.

The stark increase in executions in Egypt is alarming. We call on Egypt to cease use of the death penalty, and we are deeply concerned by terrorism charges against journalists and activists, and by asset freezes and travel bans on human rights defenders.

We welcome steps by the Government of Burundi that demonstrate greater commitment to human rights. International monitoring of the situation should continue. We call on Burundi to cooperate with all UN human rights mechanisms.

Finally, the UK has raised its concerns about Afghanistan, Tigray, Venezuela and Belarus in other statements.

Thank you.