



# Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

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5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Simon

## Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order

I am writing in response to your letter to Exeter Community Safety Partnership members, dated 26 January 2021, and I am responding on behalf of Devon and Cornwall Police. I have outlined below my support for the proposed extension to the time period for which the current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) will apply.

The issues of anti-social behaviour, street drinking, drug-taking, littering and begging have a significantly detrimental effect on those who live in, work in and visit the city of Exeter.

The PSPO has been in place since 2017 and sends a clear signal that anti-social behaviour is not acceptable to the people of Exeter, and enables the City Council and Police to tackle such issues in a timely and proportionate manner.

The PSPO dispersal power is regularly used, and serves to dissipate the impact of groups acting in a loud and disruptive manner, and significantly reduces aggressive begging.

From the inception of the PSPO in 2017 until the end of 2020, 366 people were dispersed using powers within the PSPO. Forty-eight fixed penalties for street urination have been issued, and there has been twenty prosecutions for breaches of the PSPO prohibitions.

The PSPO has proven to be a vital tool in preventing and deterring anti-social behaviour and identifying those who require additional help and support.

The PSPO's use has helped to promote a more positive environment for our communities at all times of the day and night.

The City Council and Police continue to work with partner agencies to engage, support and, where necessary, use enforcement to tackle perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. The PSPO is the key tool in taking enforcement action.

Devon and Cornwall Police are therefore supportive of the proposed 12-month extension to the current PSPO.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Hart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Superintendent Antony Hart  
Commander  
Exeter, East & Mid Devon LPA