

Simon Lane
Service Lead- Environmental Health and Community Safety
Exeter City Council



Via email: simon.lane@exeter.gov.uk

20th December 2021

**Re: Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act')
Consultation on varying the Public Spaces Protection Order for Exeter City Centre
(‘the PSPO’)**

Dear Simon,

In accordance with your statutory obligation to consult with the Police and Crime Commissioner, I am writing to confirm my support for the proposed amendments of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Exeter City Centre.

Tackling anti-social behaviour is one of my key priorities as Police and Crime Commissioner, as is outlined in my Police and Crime Plan. I am acutely aware that over the last 18 months Exeter City Centre has been experiencing issues related to anti-social behaviour and disorder. During recent visits to the city, I have been informed of how drug and alcohol consumption, littering, aggressive language, and urination in the street have been causing alarm or distress to members of the public and local businesses.

I believe that the proposed changes to the PSPO in Exeter City Centre will provide increased resilience against these unwanted behaviours, ensuring that individuals who persistently engage in anti-social conduct are effectively dispersed from the area. This helps send a clear message that this behaviour is not acceptable. Increasing the dispersal period from 6 hours to 24 hours will help prevent repeat offending providing some welcome relief to the community.

In review of the Equality Impact Assessment written by Exeter City Council, I am reassured that these new PSPO measures are accompanied by adequate support for offenders. Ensuring that access to addiction or mental health support services and temporary accommodation is in place for those individuals impacted by the PSPO is key to preventing some of these behaviours on our streets.

I welcome this strengthened approach to addressing antisocial and disruptive behaviour in Exeter City centre as it enhances the existing partnerships working to make Exeter City Centre a safer and more welcoming place. These measures are vital to protect the community and ensure that time spent in the area is enjoyable.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Hernandez

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly