



Home Office

James Brokenshire MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY FOR CRIME AND SECURITY

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Dear Colleague,

13 OCT 2011

CONSULTATION ON POLICE POWERS FOR PUBLIC ORDER

The Home Office has today launched a consultation on Police Powers for Public Order. The consultation document is available on the Home Office website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/consultations/>.

The consultation addresses three aspects of legislation to consider the impact of reform in the round:

- Whether section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 should be amended to remove the word 'insulting';
- The Implementation of police powers to require the removal of face coverings in the wake of the serious disorder in August; and,
- Whether the police need additional powers of curfew to strengthen the response to disorder and crime.

Section 5 legislation has attracted criticism, particularly from human rights organisations. The Government is therefore consulting on this issue to assess the strength of views on this subject, alongside the potential adverse impacts of repeal. When Parliament was recalled in response to the August disorder, the Prime Minister announced the proposals on face coverings and the power of curfew. In the wake of this incident, the Government wants to ensure that the police have adequate powers to protect the public, whilst balancing this with the need to safeguard individual civil liberties.

The consultation runs to 13 January 2012 and we look forward to receiving your views. We will consider the responses to the consultation and provide a response as expediently as practicable after the closing date.

Yours ever,

JAMES BROKESHIRE