

Consultation launched on replacing the outdated Vagrancy Act

- The government is determined to end rough sleeping and is repealing the antiquated Vagrancy Act
- Consultation launched to inform replacement legislation – ensuring the police can protect the public and communities

The government is set to repeal the Vagrancy Act as part of plans to end rough sleeping for good.

The government has driven a 43% drop in rough sleeping since 2019, which is currently at an 8 year low.

We will bring forward a bold new strategy that builds on progress to date and sets out how we will end rough sleeping for good and support vulnerable people off the streets, alongside wider work to continue to protect communities from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Earlier this year the government pledged to repeal the Act – in place since 1824 – which makes it an offence to sleep rough or beg in England and Wales.

Begging is harmful to those involved and can have a detrimental impact on wider communities.

The [consultation](#), launched today, seeks views on proposals to respond effectively to begging, potential penalties for harmful begging and how to encourage vulnerable people to engage with rehabilitative support.

This will ensure the police and other agencies can respond effectively and help communities feel safe while ensuring rehabilitation and support is at the heart of our approach.

Rough Sleeping and Housing Minister Eddie Hughes MP said:

No-one should be criminalised simply for having nowhere to live, and it is right that we repeal the outdated Vagrancy Act.

We must balance our role in providing essential support for vulnerable people with ensuring that we do not weaken the ability of police to protect communities.

The Vagrancy Act 1824 is an Act of Parliament that makes it an offence to sleep rough or beg in England and Wales.

In February 2022 an amendment was made to the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing (PCSC) Bill which will enable full repeal of the Vagrancy Act. In order to ensure that there is no gap in legislation, and to ensure that the

police have the tools they need, this repeal will come into force when replacement legislation is in place.

The [consultation](#) will last for 4 weeks from 7 April 2022 to 5 May 2022.

[DVLA contact centre opening hours: Easter 2022](#)

News story

DVLA's contact centre opening times over Easter 2022.



Date	Opening hours
Thursday 14 April	8am to 7pm
Good Friday 15 April	closed
Saturday 16 April	8am to 2pm
Easter Sunday 17 April	closed
Easter Monday 18 April	closed
Tuesday 19 April	8am to 7pm

Customers will be able to use our [online services](#) throughout the Easter period.

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[Joint leaders statement by the PM and](#)

President Duda: 7 April 2022

The UK and Poland today announce the beginning of a new era in their relationship, with a commitment to creating ever deeper ties between our peoples and to revolutionise our cooperation on defence and security. The two countries will begin a programme of joint work to ensure our current cooperation on European security is broadened and strengthened for the years and decades to come. The UK and Poland have a common understanding of the threats and challenges to Euro-Atlantic security and are committed to collective defence through NATO.

As Europe faces its biggest security crisis in decades, with a fellow European democracy under attack, Poland and the UK stand side by side. We consider each other among the closest of our European partners, and are resolved to face the future together. Our cooperation has increased dramatically – demonstrating our commitment to helping the people of Ukraine as well as to each other. As both countries increase our respective defence budgets to record levels, we are today announcing a joint commitment to deepen our cooperation between our armed forces and intelligence organisations – and to pursue projects of mutual benefit through a new programme of defence industrial cooperation.

Our nations have long been clear-eyed about the threat from Putin's Russia. The Russian brutal invasion of Ukraine is an assault on democracy and freedom, and has brought terrible suffering to the Ukrainian people. The UK and Poland are working closely together to support Ukraine through these awful times. We will not cease until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is restored. We call on Putin to end all hostilities and withdraw Russian forces, with an immediate ceasefire that allows civilians safe passage, food and medical supplies.

Russia's disregard of International law, humanitarian law and human decency is despicable. We are appalled at the reports of war crimes that have been committed by Russian forces against the Ukrainian people. We vow to hold to account those responsible, and will work together, including through Poland's role as OSCE Chair in Office, to collect evidence and support the International Criminal Court war crimes investigation.

Putin's strategy in Ukraine is failing. But his recent decision to move forces away from Kyiv is a regrouping, not a retreat. His ambition is unchanged. We must ensure that his new initiative in the South and East of Ukraine does not succeed. Today, we have agreed to step up urgent military aid to Ukraine. We will work together to facilitate the delivery of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukraine. And we will work to ensure that the Russian war machine cannot benefit from trade in sectors like energy.

We have agreed to propose a Poland-UK Joint Commission to support Ukraine with the long-term co-ordination of arms supplies and training, help Ukraine to identify its needs and modernise its military. We have heard clearly the ambition of Ukraine's leaders to move the country on from its reliance on

Soviet-era equipment and embrace Western technology. Ukraine's security is ours too.

We welcome our existing defence collaboration, including the Royal Dragoon Guards forming part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence, UK military engineers in assisting with managing the migration crisis orchestrated by Lukashenko's Belarus, the Royal Marines in working with Poland on joint exercises, contingency planning, and capacity-building, and the Royal Air Force in flying combat air patrols and providing air-to-air refuelling over Poland.

We are also deeply concerned by the changes to Russia's military presence in Belarus. We will work together to tackle any threat to NATO. We have agreed to increase exercising between our militaries and work together to support a strengthened long-term defence posture for NATO that underwrites all Allies' security, ahead of the NATO Summit in June. We will also step up our joint work to counter cyber threats and disinformation, including through a new joint cyber hub and greater effort to counter Russian propaganda throughout the world.

We consider our bilateral defence co-operation to be strategic in nature and are resolved to take it to a new level. We reiterate our strong commitment to work on Poland's acquisition of new frigates and the Narew air defence programme as flagship industrial and technical initiatives in vital areas for our mutual security. We will also deepen our co-operation on future defence strategy and analysis of security threats. We will work up a new strategic partnership to capture this ambition and build on the Defence & Security Co-operation Treaty that we signed in Warsaw in 2017.

Poland and the UK will continue to support Ukrainians fleeing the conflict. The Polish people have opened their homes and their hearts to welcome the greatest share of Ukrainian refugees, hosting over 1.8 million Ukrainians. They deserve the support of all Europeans. The UK will therefore triple its support to Poland to £30m to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees temporarily located in Poland, including temporary shelter, education and other basic services. The UK visa scheme is open and is uncapped.

Finally, we will pursue new measures to boost bilateral trade. A flourishing trade relationship not only creates jobs and prosperity, but underpins our national security. We will therefore launch a high-level inter-governmental trade dialogue, as well as a new bilateral Business, Trade & Investment Taskforce, bringing together senior leaders from government and business to identify opportunities and strip away trade barriers.

We will take these initiatives forward through a reinvigorated series of Prime Minister-led Inter-Governmental Consultations, supported by the joint Foreign and Defence Minister 'Quadriga' series of meetings, and encapsulate them in a new UK-Poland 2030 agreement. The Consultations will discuss ways to enhance collaboration across the entire range of our relationship, building upon our strong defence, people-to-people, economic, and cultural ties.

[New product recalls and alerts site](#)

News story

New product safety alerts, reports and recalls site launched by OPSS.



The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has launched a new [product safety alerts, reports and recalls](#) site to help the British public, businesses and consumer groups identify unsafe products.

The new area, which launched today (April 7), follows extensive research with consumer bodies, regulators and businesses. The new layout is designed to be more user-friendly and encourage the public to check the latest updates for unsafe products available on the UK market, as identified by OPSS or another market surveillance authority.

OPSS has developed the product safety alerts, reports and recalls site to help users with the ability to:

- search for previously recalled or reported products
- filter pages by product category, risk level, measure type, date and type of alert
- subscribe to instant, daily, or weekly updates

Which?, RoSPA and other consumer bodies have welcomed the new, interactive pages.

Nathan Davies, Executive Head of Policy and Portfolio at RoSPA said:

I encourage you to subscribe to the services and sign up to the alerts. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same. Knowing that a product has a safety recall and then getting it properly fixed will give you the peace of mind and confidence that the products in your house are safe for you and your family. Professionals can learn a significant amount about the causes and risks of the failures in products and this finder tool will help

prevent the accidents and fires that can occur in our homes.

OPSS already notifies more than 1,500 subscribers to its safety updates and will boost that number in the UK by encouraging members of the public and other stakeholders to sign up to the alerts.

OPSS Chief Executive Graham Russell said:

We have launched this new website to help everyone search for the latest product safety information. The improvements we have made make it easier to search for unsafe products and to keep up to speed with breaking news.

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[Charity Commission takes action against married trustees that profited from sports charity](#)

Press release

Regulator secures settlement for misapplied charitable funds



The Commission has found two former trustees of Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It responsible for serious misconduct and/or mismanagement after they paid charitable funds to their own companies.

Matthew Dimbylow has been permanently removed as a trustee and Emma Dimbylow has signed an undertaking not to act as a trustee again. The regulator took legal action to secure the return of misapplied charitable funds. The charity

has objects to promote and support the physical education of children and young people including those with disabilities. It is in the process of being wound up.

The trustees employed a commercial lottery company to run a scratch card lottery for the charity between 2011 and 2014, raising a considerable amount of money. The Commission opened an investigation in 2017, following concerns about the proportion of funds that it had spent on fundraising.

This inquiry has found that the lottery raised over £6 million yet the costs of generating this return, including via payments to the lottery organiser, amounted to £4.2 million. Of the remainder, £1 million was passed to three different companies run by the couple and from which they profited personally. Only £300k went to charitable purposes that were unconnected with the Dimbylows.

The inquiry has concluded that the two former trustees mismanaged and misapplied the charity's funds and are responsible for serious mismanagement and/or misconduct.

The Commission issued a claim in the High Court to recover the funds misapplied by the Dimbylows to their own companies, which they settled on 12 September 2019.

The charity's remaining trustee, who was appointed after the serious misconduct and mismanagement took place, is in the process of winding up the charity.

Amy Spiller, Head of Investigations at the Charity Commission, said:

The public expects trustees to ensure charitable funds are always carefully managed in the best interests of their charity and the cause they serve, in this case supporting children and disabled people with sport. Instead, the Dimbylows abused the trust that was placed in them as trustees.

It is right that we took action to recover misapplied charitable funds that went to the former trustees' own companies and acted to ensure those responsible cannot become trustees again. We hope this sends a powerful message to others who may be tempted to use charity in this way.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.

2. The inquiry report can be seen [here](#)
3. Matthew Dimbylow was removed as a trustee of this charity on 7 March 2019. As a result, he is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, holding an office or employment with senior management functions in any charity in England or Wales. His name has been entered upon the Commission's register of removed trustees. Emma Dimbylow signed a voluntary undertaking to not act as a charity trustee or senior manager of any charity in England or Wales.
4. There were three other trustees at the charity. The inquiry found trustee A and B failed in their oversight of the charity. Trustee A resigned in 2013 and Trustee B in 2016. Trustee C was appointed after the serious mismanagement and/or misconduct took place and is winding up the charity.
5. The Charity Commission's fundraising guidance for trustees can be seen here: [Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties](#)

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