

# Antisocial BEHAVIOUR

## It's Wrong. Your Rights.

Antisocial behaviour is a serious problem in many of Scotland's communities. Noisy neighbours, litter and graffiti, youth disorder, drinking and drug dens – all are forms of antisocial behaviour.

Too many people feel that nothing can be done about antisocial behaviour – that it is something they have to put up with, even though it can seriously affect their quality of life.

### Your rights and responsibilities

Antisocial behaviour does not have to be tolerated. People have a right to live in safe and secure communities. But with rights come responsibilities. People have a responsibility to treat their neighbours and others in the wider community with respect. People who cause trouble need to know that their behaviour will not be tolerated and that action will be taken against them if they persist.

### The law is on your side

That's why the Scottish Parliament passed the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act in 2004. The Act gives local agencies more tools to stand up to the minority in each community whose behaviour blights lives.

### How has the law changed?

The law gives local agencies – Councils, the police, the Children's Hearings system and the courts – more powers to deal with antisocial behaviour.

#### The powers include:

- allowing the police to close premises that are the focus of constant antisocial behaviour
- allowing the police to disperse groups of people who are causing significant, continuous and serious antisocial behaviour
- Fixed Penalty Notices for a range of antisocial behaviour offences including noise within domestic dwellings, vandalism and drunken behaviour
- banning the sale of spray paint to under 16s
- a statutory power of arrest if an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) is broken
- Community Reparation Orders that require people to make amends for damage they have caused
- allowing Councils to deal with private landlords who take no action or avoid dealing with their tenants' antisocial behaviour
- allowing the police to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and other less serious acts of antisocial behaviour
- extending ASBOs to 12 to 15 year olds

## Standing up to Antisocial Behaviour

**“Antisocial behaviour is a problem - but my message to hard-working people across the country is a positive one. Antisocial behaviour need not be tolerated. The law is on your side. The Government in Scotland is on your side. Together we can help deliver a safer, stronger Scotland where people treat one another with respect.”**

Cathy Jamieson,  
MSP, Minister for Justice.

## How will the law help me?

A lot is already being done. But we need to do more. The new law should make it easier and quicker for local agencies to deal with antisocial behaviour. However, they cannot do this on their own – they need the help of local people. People need to report antisocial behaviour, act as witnesses, come forward and play their part, confident that their complaint will be dealt with quickly and that they will be supported.

That’s why the Scottish Executive has provided extra money to Councils, so they can offer a wider range of services to tackle antisocial behaviour.

### Councils have used this money to:

- establish neighbour mediation services, to help neighbours resolve difficulties before they get out of hand
- recruit antisocial behaviour teams, which can carry out investigations and, where necessary, take court action
- set up community warden schemes in hard pressed areas
- provide support services to victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour, including information on the progress of complaints as well as practical advice and reassurance
- set up telephone helplines, so people can report incidents in confidence

## Involving local people

The Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act requires Councils and the police to draw up local antisocial behaviour strategies, in consultation with local people. Councils and the police are required to publish their strategies and to produce progress reports on their implementation, so that local people can see what’s being done to tackle antisocial behaviour.

## Who do I turn to for help?

That depends on the nature of the problem. Clearly serious crimes should be reported to the police. But many incidents of antisocial behaviour are more appropriately dealt with by local Councils. The Council will be able to advise you whether to call the police.

For more information about the support you can expect in your local area you should contact your Council.

Telephone numbers of local authorities can be found below, and on the Scottish Executive’s antisocial behaviour website.

[www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com](http://www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com)

Aberdeen City:	<b>01224 523 300</b>	Edinburgh:	<b>0131 529 7050</b>	North Lanarkshire:	<b>01698 403 222</b>
Aberdeenshire:	<b>01467 620 981</b>	Eilean Siar (Western Isles):	<b>01851 703 773</b>	Orkney:	<b>01856 873 535</b>
Angus:	<b>01575 573 581</b>	Falkirk:	<b>01324 506 070</b>	Perth & Kinross:	<b>01738 476 173</b>
Argyll & Bute:	<b>01546 602 127</b>	Fife:	<b>01592 418 888</b>	Renfrewshire:	<b>0800 169 1283</b>
Clackmannanshire:	<b>01259 450 000</b>	Glasgow:	<b>0800 0273 901</b>	Scottish Borders:	<b>01835 826 597</b>
Dumfries & Galloway:	<b>01387 260 000</b>	Highland:	<b>01463 702 126</b>	Shetland:	<b>01595 693 535</b>
Dundee City:	<b>0800 169 3845</b>	Inverclyde:	<b>01475 717 171</b>	South Ayrshire:	<b>01292 612 000</b>
East Ayrshire:	<b>01563 576 843</b>	Midlothian:	<b>0131 2707 500</b>	South Lanarkshire:	<b>01698 454 444</b>
East Dunbartonshire:	<b>0800 013 1209</b>	Moray:	<b>01343 543 451</b>	Stirling:	<b>0845 277 7000</b>
East Lothian:	<b>0845 601 8518</b>	North Ayrshire:	<b>01294 324 922</b>	West Dunbartonshire:	<b>01389 772 048</b>
East Renfrewshire:	<b>0141 577 3000</b>			West Lothian:	<b>0800 801 331</b>

Alternative formats and community language versions of this leaflet can be ordered by calling 0131 244 4912.



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