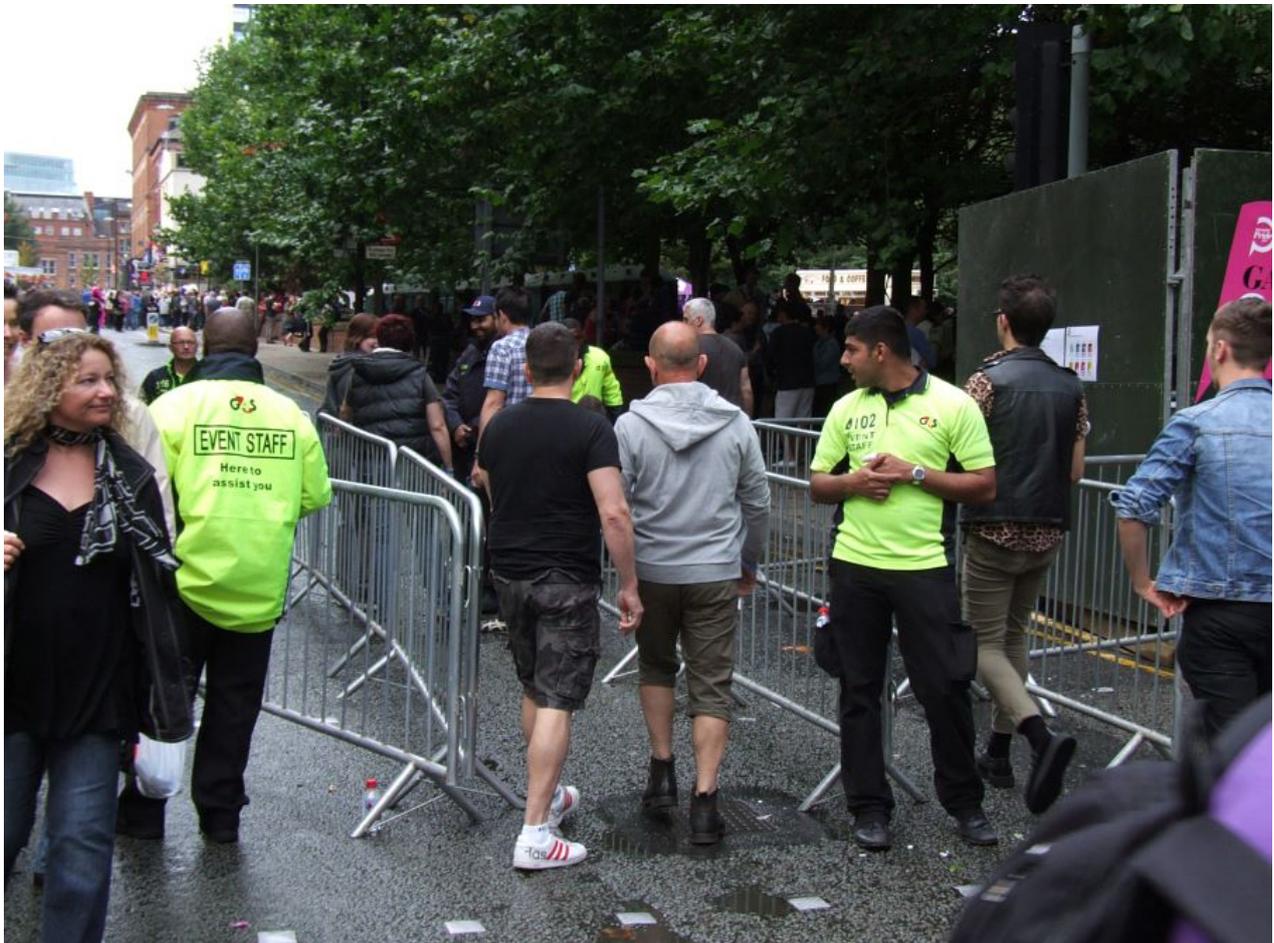


Manchester Pride 2014 Right of Way Factsheet

Published by
Facts About Manchester Pride



For many of us this is NOT about “going to the big weekend for free.”

It’s about civil liberties, rights and freedom, which we thought traditionally “pride” was meant to be about. It’s about members of our community being locked out from “their” part of Manchester every August Bank Holiday for ten years, unless they paid up. And during something that is marketed as a “celebration.”

It's about the hijacking and running down of something that we, the real LGBT community, started to raise money for good causes with some fun along the way.

Before we get to the various documents, a bit about what you can do...

You have the legal right to walk along the streets to get to any business that is accessed from those streets. You don't have to tell anyone where you are going.

Of course many of the village businesses won't allow you in without a band and that is their right as private premises. But some will let you in.

It's a criminal offence to obstruct a right of way and we believe any undue delay will count as an obstruction.

The Department For Transport has made clear that a two-tier system can not be operated. For example, if the site is nearly full, security can't allow in wrist-band wearers while preventing people who don't have a band.

Security may ask to search you but you don't have to agree. They can't touch you as that would be an assault. Once you're inside, if they badger, rush or won't leave you alone potentially that becomes harassment.

They have no powers to stop you from taking photographs or shooting video and indeed we encourage you to record your full experience as evidence. The guards have no "right to privacy" (as some have tried to claim in the past) as it's a public street. If they don't like being on camera they have the option to go away from you. Even the police have very few powers to prevent the use of cameras in public and have been told by the Home Office not to misuse anti-terror legislation for that purpose.

There is talk of "stewards" escorting people. But we can't see how that will work. You pop into Napoleons for 30 minutes, then go to a takeaway for chips, then to Company Bar, then back to the takeaway for a pizza, rest for a while, then walk towards Napoleons, change your mind and go to The Molly House instead. What will your "personal steward" be doing for all that time?

Please be polite but firm as you insist on your right to walk along the streets of "our gay village."

The documents (the proof)

We encourage you to print out some of these and take them with you.

In a letter last Autumn, the Head of Events at Manchester City Council stated that "...the closure orders do not restrict any pedestrian wishing to exercise their right of way to cross through the site and event organisers are instructed

to facilitate such movement as requested.”

manchester.gov.uk

17:23 (2 minutes ago)

to me

Dear Mr K

Your enquiry regarding Right Of Way restrictions around Manchester Pride has been forwarded to me to provide a response.

Pride events have been taking place in Manchester for over 21 years - and the current Manchester Pride site plan and management controls have evolved over the past 10 years of event delivery in the Village. The road closures implemented in the area are part of the control measures required to provide a safe event environment and are well advertised through the local media and the area impacted has not significantly altered from one year to the next over the past few years.

That said, the closure orders do not restrict any pedestrian wishing to exercise their right of way to cross through the site and the event organisers are instructed to facilitate such movement as requested.

I hope this adequately answers your enquiry.

Regards

Mike

Mike Parrott
Head Of Events
Manchester City Council
Floor Seven - Town Hall Extension
Albert Square
Manchester
M60 2LA

email manchester.gov.uk

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In response to a Freedom of Information request in April, Greater Manchester Police wrote “We will not be preventing access to anyone who requires a right of way on foot.”

Greater Manchester Police

7 April 2014

Good afternoon Tony

I contacted the appropriate business area on your behalf. They advised as follows:

The primacy of Pride lies with the event organisers and they are responsible for entry and egress onto the site. The nature of the event is one of fund raising and the purchase of the wrist band contributes to this. We will not be preventing access to anyone who requires a right of way on foot. We will of course continue to give the event our full support, and will be there to assist to deal with any issues of crime and disorder which may arise.

I trust this answers your question, but if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Sarah Browne

See it here:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/police_powers_of_restricting_acc#incoming-502838

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Manchester City Council sent the following Draft Order to the Department For Transport (DFT) about ten days before the Bank Holiday weekend. Because some of the roads had already been closed for a BUPA event within the previous 12 months, the Council had to apply to the DFT. And it seems that probably for the first time they sneaked in a bit about closing off streets to pedestrians.

**CITY OF MANCHESTER (MANCHESTER PRIDE EVENT 2014)
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2014**

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Manchester (hereinafter referred to “the Council”) being the Traffic Authority for the area is satisfied that traffic on the lengths of road specified in Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this Order should be restricted for the purposes of facilitating the holding of a social event namely the Manchester Pride Event 2014 and that it is not reasonably practicable for the event to be held otherwise than on a road.

NOW THEREFORE the Council in exercise of its powers under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“the Act”) hereby makes the following Order:-

1. Save as provided in Articles 5 and 6 to this Order no person shall cause or permit any vehicle to enter, proceed or wait in the lengths of roads specified in Schedule 1 to this Order between 6.00 hours and 24.00 hours on Friday 22 August 2014 and between 00.01 hours and 24.00 hours on Saturday 23 August 2014, Sunday 24 August 2014 and Monday 25 August 2014 and between 00.01 hours and 7.00hours on Tuesday 26 August 2014.
2. Save as provided in Articles 7 and 8 to this Order no person shall enter or proceed along the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order between 6.00 hours and 24.00 hours on Friday 22 August 2014 and between 00.01 hours and 24.00 hours on Saturday 23 August 2014, Sunday 24 August 2014 and Monday 25 August 2014 and between 00.01 hours and 7.00 hours on Tuesday 26 August 2014.
3. Save as provided in Article 4 to this Order no person shall except upon the direction or with the permission of a police constable in uniform or a traffic warden, cause or permit any vehicle to enter or proceed
 - a) between 06.00 hours and 18.00 hours in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 3 to this Order; and
 - b) between 12.30 hours and 18.00 hours in the lengths of road

specified in Schedule 4 to this Order
on Saturday 23rd August 2014.

4. Nothing in Article 3 to this Order shall apply to any vehicle being used for any of the following purposes:
 - (a) emergency services vehicles being used in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
 - (b) by Council officers acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
 - (c) to facilitate the holding of the Manchester Pride Event 2014.

5. Nothing in Article 1 to this Order shall prevent any vehicle from entering proceeding or waiting in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order for so long as it is necessary to allow the vehicle to be used:
 - (a) to enable a bona fide cash collection to be made from any premises situated on or adjacent to the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order where the collection is being made at the request of the occupier of such premises and the driver of the vehicle is able to produce evidence of the request when required to do so to a representative of the Organisers of Manchester Pride Event 2014;
 - (b) between 08.00 hours and 11.00 hours to enable a bona fide delivery to be made to any premises situated on or adjacent to the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order where such delivery is being made at the request of the occupier of such premises and the driver of the vehicle is able to produce evidence of the request when required to do so a representative of the Organisers of Manchester Pride Event 2014;
 - (c) by employees of the Royal Mail to make deliveries to premises situated on the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order;
 - (d) by emergency services vehicles being used in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
 - (e) by officers of the Council acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
 - (f) where authorised by a police constable in uniform.

6. Nothing in Article 1 to this Order shall prevent:
 - (a) any bus requiring egress from Chorlton Street Bus Station from entering Sackville Street at its junction with Major Street so as to proceed in a north westerly direction towards its junction with Portland Street;
 - (b) a hackney carriage from entering, proceeding or waiting on Major Street between its junction with Chorlton Street and its junction with Minshull Street.

7. Nothing in Article 2 to this Order shall apply to any person:

- (a) participating in the Manchester Pride Event 2014 as evidenced by:-
 - (i) the display of a valid Manchester Pride Event 2014 wristband;
 - (ii) the display of a valid Manchester Pride Event 2014 accreditation;
- (b) accessing any premises situated on or adjacent to the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order or to any premises accessible for pedestrians from and only from these roads as evidenced by:-
 - (i) the display of a valid Manchester Pride Event 2014 wristband;
 - (ii) the display of a valid Manchester Pride Event 2014 accreditation;
 - (iii) the display of a valid Manchester Pride Event 2014 Resident and Visitor Pass;

8. Nothing in Article 2 to this Order shall apply to:

- (a) any person entering or proceeding along the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order to enable a bone fide cash collection to be made from any premises situated on or adjacent to the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order where the collection is being made at the request of the occupier of such premises and that person is able to produce evidence of the request when required to do so to a representative of the Organisers of Manchester Pride Event 2014;
- (b) any person entering or proceeding along the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order between 08.00 hours and 11.00 hours to enable a bone fide delivery to be made to premises situated on or adjacent to the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order where such delivery is being made at the request of the occupier of such premises and that person is able to produce evidence of the request when required to do so by a representative of the Organisers of Manchester Pride Event 2014;
- (c) any person making deliveries on behalf of Royal Mail to premises situated in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 to this Order
- (d) emergency services personnel acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
- (e) officers of the Council acting in pursuance of statutory powers and duties;
- (f) any person authorised to enter by a police constable in uniform.

9. Alternative routes for use by vehicles and pedestrians will be available via Portland Street, Princess Street, Whitworth Street, Aytoun Street and Minshull Street.

10. Save as provided in Article 11 to this Order no person shall except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform cause or permit any vehicle to proceed in the length of road specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order in a direction other than that specified in relation to that length of road in Column 2 of Schedule 2.

11. Nothing in Article 10 of this Order shall apply to the driving of any mechanical road cleansing vehicle being used in pursuance of statutory powers.

12. Pursuant to subsections (10) and (11) of Section 16A of the Act any statutory provision currently in force which is affected by this Order shall take effect subject to this Order and shall, insofar as it is inconsistent with this Order be suspended for the duration of this Order.
13. In this order:-
- (1) The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
 - (2) "bus" shall have the same meaning as in Regulation 22 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002
- "Hackney carriage" has the same meaning as in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
14. This Order shall come into operation on 22 August 2014 and may be cited as the City of Manchester (Manchester Pride Event 2014) Temporary Traffic Regulation Order 2014.

SCHEDULE 1

<u>Road</u>	<u>Length of road</u>
Abingdon Street	from its junction with Portland Street to its junction with Canal Street.
Silver Street	from its junction with Princess Street to its junction with Abingdon Street
Major Street	from its junction with Princess Street to its junction with Sackville Street
Hart Street	from its junction with Princess Street to its cul-de-sac end
Bloom Street	from its junction with Princess Street to its junction with Minshull Street
Richmond Street	from its junction with Princess Street to its junction with Minshull Street
Canal Street	from its junction with Abingdon Street to its junction with Minshull Street
Brazil Street	from its junction with Sackville Street to its cul-de-sac end
Chorlton Street	from its junction with Major Street to its junction with Whitworth Street
Sackville Street	from its junction with Portland Street to its junction with Whitworth Street
Silver Street	from its junction with Chorlton Street to its junction with Minshull Street
Major Street	from its junction with Chorlton Street to its junction with Minshull Street

SCHEDULE 2

Column 1

Column 2

Length of Road

Direction

Silver Street from its junction with Chorlton Street to its junction with Minshull Street

North Easterly

SCHEDULE 3

Liverpool Road from Potato Wharf to Deansgate

SCHEDULE 4

Deansgate from Liverpool Road to John Dalton Street
John Dalton Street from Deansgate to Cross Street
Tasle Alley from Albert Square to cul-de-sac end
Albert Square from Lloyd Street to Cross Street
Princess Street from Cross Street to Whitworth Street
Whitworth Street from Princess Street to Fairfield Street
Fairfield Street from Whitworth Street to London Road

DATED THIS day of August 2014

Authorised Signatory

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Within the last week we received three letters from the Department For Transport.



Department
for Transport

Geoff Stafford
Sent by e-mail only

Dear Mr Stafford

Department for Transport
National Transport Casework
Team
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle
NE4 7AR
Tel: 02079444310

Web Site: www.gov.uk

Our Ref: 113540
Your Ref:

DATE 20 August 2014

Road Closures for Manchester Pride

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 August 2014 to the Secretary of State for Transport outlining your concerns regarding road closures related to the Manchester Pride 2014 event. Your correspondence was passed to me to respond and I contacted you on 19 August to discuss the issues you raised.

I explained the National Transport Casework Team (NTCT) is responsible for giving consent, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, to local authorities for their orders under section 16 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Manchester City Council applied to the NTCT for Secretary of State consent to restrict traffic on public highways to hold the Manchester Pride 2014 event over the period 22 to 25 August 2014. The Council provided a copy of the draft Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) regarding the traffic restrictions on roads affected and, as all conditions were satisfied in the relevant part of the legislation, the consent was granted on 13 August 2014.

I explained that whilst there is no minimum period of statutory advertising for TROs, it was the Department's understanding that the event organisers had been in contact with affected residents and businesses prior to the application being made and that it is an annual event which is well advertised.

We discussed your concerns regarding rights of way you consider will be, or have been, denied however I confirmed that nothing in the Order can at any time prevent access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the road, or any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from, the roads, nor can the Order prevent emergency vehicles from entering the restricted highways. Due to the scale of the event, Manchester City Council and the event organisers have chosen to manage the event and traffic restriction by the use of purchased wristbands or residents 'permits' – the purchased wristbands are for entry into participating businesses and entry may, at times be restricted due to the number of people within the area. People not wearing a wristband will be denied entry into participating venues within the area. This is not a matter for the Department to comment on; neither is it appropriate for the Department make any comment on the charitable or profit-making nature of the event.

With your consent, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to Manchester City Council

Yours sincerely

Victoria Pointer
National Transport Casework Team



Department
for Transport

Paul Wheatley
Sent by e-mail only

Dear Mr Wheatley

Department for Transport
National Transport Casework
Team
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle
NE4 7AR
Tel: 02079444310

Web Site: www.gov.uk

Our Ref: 113538
Your Ref:

DATE 20 August 2014

Road Closures for Manchester Pride

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 August 2014 to the Secretary of State for Transport outlining your concerns regarding road closures related to the Manchester Pride 2014 event. Your correspondence was passed to me to respond.

I should firstly confirm that the National Transport Casework Team (NTCT) is responsible for giving consent, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, to local authorities for their orders under section 16 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Manchester City Council applied to the NTCT for Secretary of State consent to restrict traffic on public highways to hold the Manchester Pride 2014 event over the period 22 to 25 August 2014. The Council provided a copy of the draft Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) regarding the traffic restrictions on roads affected and, as all conditions were satisfied in the relevant part of the legislation, the consent was granted on 13 August 2014.

Whilst there is no minimum period of statutory advertising for TROs, it was the Department's understanding that the event organisers had been in contact with affected residents and businesses prior to the application being made and that it is an annual event which is well advertised.

You have raised the issue of rights of access for residents and business owners; I can confirm that nothing in the Order can at any time prevent access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the road, or any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from, the roads, nor can the Order prevent emergency vehicles from entering the restricted highways. The Order does contain additional provision for deliveries in vehicles being made within the area affected, and pedestrian visitors would be covered by the rights of access described above.

Due to the scale of the event, Manchester City Council and the event organisers have chosen to manage the event and traffic restriction by the use of purchased wristbands or residents 'permits' – the purchased wristbands are for entry into participating businesses and entry to the restricted area may, at times be restricted due to the number of people within the area. People not wearing a wristband will be denied entry into participating venues within the area. This is not a matter for the Department to comment on provided that the organisers do not prevent the access described above.

With your consent, I would like to forward a copy of your correspondence to Manchester City Council. If I do not hear from you, I will assume your consent is not given.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Pointer
National Transport Casework Team



Department
for Transport

Paul Wheatley
Sent by e-mail only

Dear Mr Wheatley

Department for Transport
National Transport Casework
Team
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle
NE4 7AR
Tel: 02079444310

Web Site: www.gov.uk

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

DATE 21 August 2014

Road Closures for Manchester Pride

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 August 2014 regarding your continued concerns about road closures related to the Manchester Pride 2014 event. We spoke earlier today to discuss the issues raised.

It is not for the Department to comment on the conflicting information provided from Manchester City Council and Manchester Pride. I can only reiterate the information provided to us and the position in law regarding Traffic Restriction Orders (TROs).

I can confirm that Section 16(9) of the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act ("the Act") states "...no such order shall be made with respect to any road which would have the effect of preventing at any time access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the road, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from the road".

This legislative requirement is not ambiguous. It means pedestrians wishing to access premises that can only be accessed from the restricted roads, must be granted entry to those roads.

Whist the TRO drafted by Manchester City Council, as seen by this team with their request for consent, may have included the intention to close roads to pedestrians not wearing a wristband or carrying resident accreditation, this goes beyond the of the powers available to them under the Act however, as the wider Act makes it clear what provision must be made, the consent was granted. The third party organiser officials **are** required to allow pedestrians to enter the 'restricted area' to enter premises that can only be accessed from those roads.

Should access to the area be restricted on safety grounds, this should apply to all pedestrians regardless of whether they present wristbands, resident accreditation or neither. There is no provision within the Act or TRO to support a 'two-tier' system of entry should the safety issues be resolved.

With regard to matters arising over the Bank Holiday weekend, as this should be notified to the Council, I'm afraid I'm unable to provide you with a point of contact.

At your request, I have forwarded a copy of this response, along with your original correspondence to both Manchester Pride and Manchester City Council.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Pointer
National Transport Casework Team

The third letter states that in attempting to close roads to pedestrians who are not wearing a wristband or carrying resident accreditation, Manchester City Council exceeded its powers.

Our take on the situation is that the Department For Transport had been led to believe that all residents and businesses were happy and onboard with Manchester Pride. Which is

not the case. The DFT is interested to see how the situation is handled this coming weekend and it could affect future road closures. This is another reason to shoot video and let us know about your experience.

SEND US DETAILS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE OF ACCESSING THE STREETS

To this address:

pride2014@factsmcr.com

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

Throughout the weekend updates will be on a public page here:

<http://www.factsmcr.com/pride2014/>

Also on the Facts About Manchester Pride public Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Facts-about-Manchester-Pride/130761406996123>

And as always there will be discussion on the closed Facebook group which is and always has been primarily for those people who are unhappy with the status quo and who wish to campaign for change:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/factsaboutmanchesterpride/>

