



## Partner, Business, and Stakeholder Update

### Protest in Central London – Update on 03 June 2020

3<sup>R</sup>D JUNE 2020

#### Current overview (subject to change or variation):

- We stand alongside all those across the globe who are appalled and horrified by the way George Floyd lost his life. Justice and accountability should follow.
- The protests taking place today are continuing. We had not been contacted by any event organisers but are engaging with participants and asking them to work with us for their safety and those around them. The route taken by the protest has been Hyde Park to Parliament Square, via Park Lane, Grosvenor Place, and Victoria Street.
- At time of writing, the protest is continuing within Central London and police remain in attendance.
- We always work to balance the rights of protestors with those of the wider community and to manage protest in the most proportionate way we can. We absolutely understand the right to lawful protest is a key part of any democracy, and we have an appropriate policing plan in place that will balance the safety of protesters with their desire to protest.
- We have placed temporary road closures to protect protesters and drivers in order to manage their safety but we continue to do so in a way that minimises disruption as far as possible.
- The Metropolitan Police has a long history of successfully managing protest. We want to remind those seeking to participate that Coronavirus remains a deadly disease and urge people to remain socially distanced to prevent its spread and to work with officers at this challenging time.

#### Advice to stakeholders, organisations, and businesses in Central London

Please follow the advice issued by HM Government and Public Health England, found at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus).

As of 1600hrs, 03 June 2020 the advice is:

#### **STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES**

The right to protest is generally viewed as an amalgam of Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the ECHR. These are all qualified rights, however, which can legitimately be restricted under the following circumstances "...as are prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

The Covid-19 pandemic has been declared a global health emergency threatening the health of the world. Legislation has been introduced through Parliament (Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(England) Regulations 2020) to protect the health of the population and limit the spread of the virus. These now make it an offence to gather in a public place with more than six people who do not live in the same house (Reg 7). There is a comprehensive list of reasonable excuses but they do not include protest or demonstration. Reg 8 gives an officer the power to direct a person to return to where they are living or give them any reasonable instruction the officer considers necessary.

People and employers should stay safe in public spaces and workplaces by following "Working Safely During Coronavirus (COVID-19)" guidelines [link](#). This should enable more people to go back to work, where they cannot work from home, and encourage more vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to go to school or childcare as already permitted.

You should stay alert when you leave home [link](#): washing your hands regularly, maintaining social distancing, and ensuring you do not gather in groups of more than two, except with members of your household or for other specific exceptions set out in law.

When outside your home, it's important to try to stay 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with.

While everyone is being told to stay at home, it can be hard to know what to do **if you're unwell**.

- For help from a GP – use your GP surgery's website, use an online service or app, or call the surgery.
- For urgent medical help – use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online.
- For life-threatening emergencies – call 999 for an ambulance.

#### **If you're advised to go to hospital, it's important to go.**

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature or a new, continuous cough), use the [111 Coronavirus service](#). You can also ask for a test to check if you have the virus by clicking on [this link](#).

Information on HM Government's response can be found [on this link](#).

Guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed understand how to work safely, can be found [on this link](#).

Guidance on Staying alert and safe (social distancing) [on this link](#)

Guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, can be found [on this link](#).