

Public Spaces Protection Order

Have Your Say Sheffield Analysis

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation was carried online via the Have Your Say Sheffield engagement platform, this was open for submissions from 9th February - 25th March 2024.

Whilst the majority of submissions were via the online platform a small number of paper surveys were completed either independently or with the support of Sheffield City Council officers. These submissions were incorporated into the response dataset prior to analysis.

The consultation aimed to understand people's experience of anti-social behaviour over the previous 12 months, their views on the proposed introduction of a PSPO, the specific anti-social behaviours covered by the proposed PSPO and the geographical area the PSPO would cover. The consultation asked questions and gave the opportunity for people's views to be shared in their own words.

The main question was mandatory:

Do you think Sheffield City Council should introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Sheffield city centre?

The remaining questions were optional, over 97% of respondents provided a submission to the remaining PSPO content questions, 91% of respondents completed the questions asking monitoring questions.

The analysis has been carried out for people responding as individuals and on behalf of an organisation. A small amount of analysis was possible for people stating they were landowners however, this has been limited by the small numbers within this group.

The analysis was carried out by the Performance and Intelligence team within Strategic Support Services, Sheffield City Council.

Contents

1. Who participated in the consultation	3
1.1 Individuals who responded	3
1.2 Organisations who responded.....	7
1.3 Landowners who responded	8
2. Participants experience of anti-social behaviour	10
2.1 Experience of individuals	10
2.2 Experience of organisations.....	12
2.3 Experience of landowners	14
3. Participants views on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order	16
3.1 The proposed PSPO in Sheffield City Centre	16
3.1.1 Individual respondents	16
3.1.2 Organisation respondents.....	19
3.2 The proposed PSPO restrictions	22
3.2.1 Individual respondents	22
3.2.2 Organisation respondents.....	25
3.3 The proposed PSPO boundary	26
3.3.1 Individual respondents	26
3.3.2 Organisation respondents.....	28
4. Conclusions.....	29
Appendix 1- respondents monitoring questions.....	30

1. Who participated in the consultation

Over 1280 responses were received giving views on the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) online consultation. Just over 1200 responses were provided by individuals giving their own views, 77 responses were received from organisations. The reach and awareness of the consultation was wider than this with a further 2000 people visiting the consultation webpages and over 170 downloading documents related to the consultation.

Respondents accessed the consultation through a number of routes: directly (44%), via email (26%), referred from another website (17%), via social media (8%), and via a search engine (5%). Common routes - those leading to around 50 respondents each included; sheffnews.com, The Star, Google, Facebook and Govdelivery.

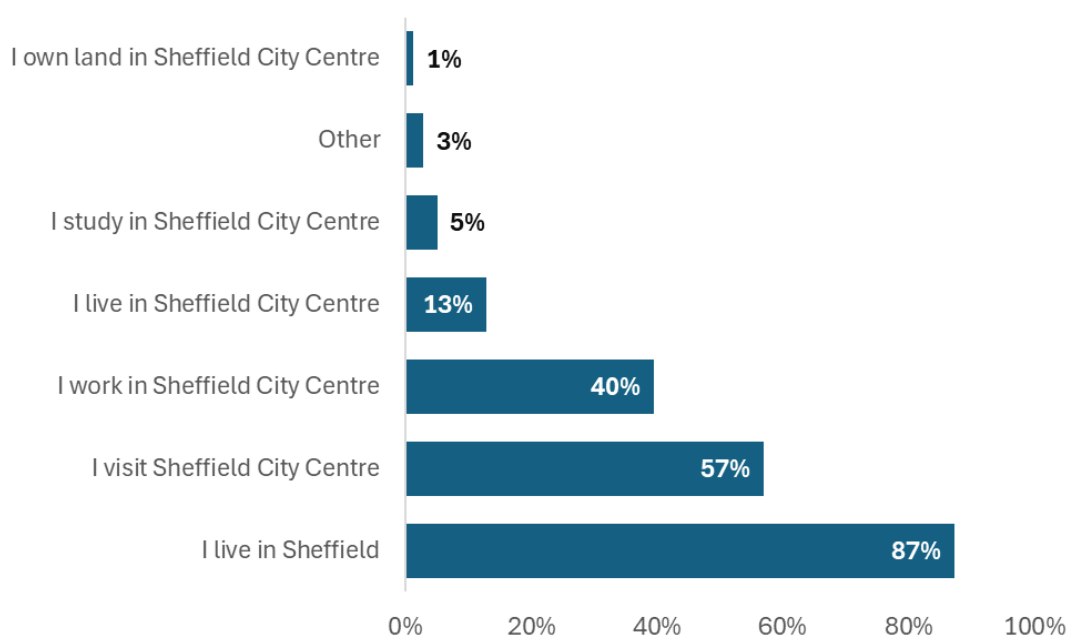
Two questions were asked in this section, both of which were compulsory:

- *Are you completing this survey formally on behalf of an organisation?*
- *Tell us about yourself (interest / connection to Sheffield city centre)*

1.1 Individuals who responded

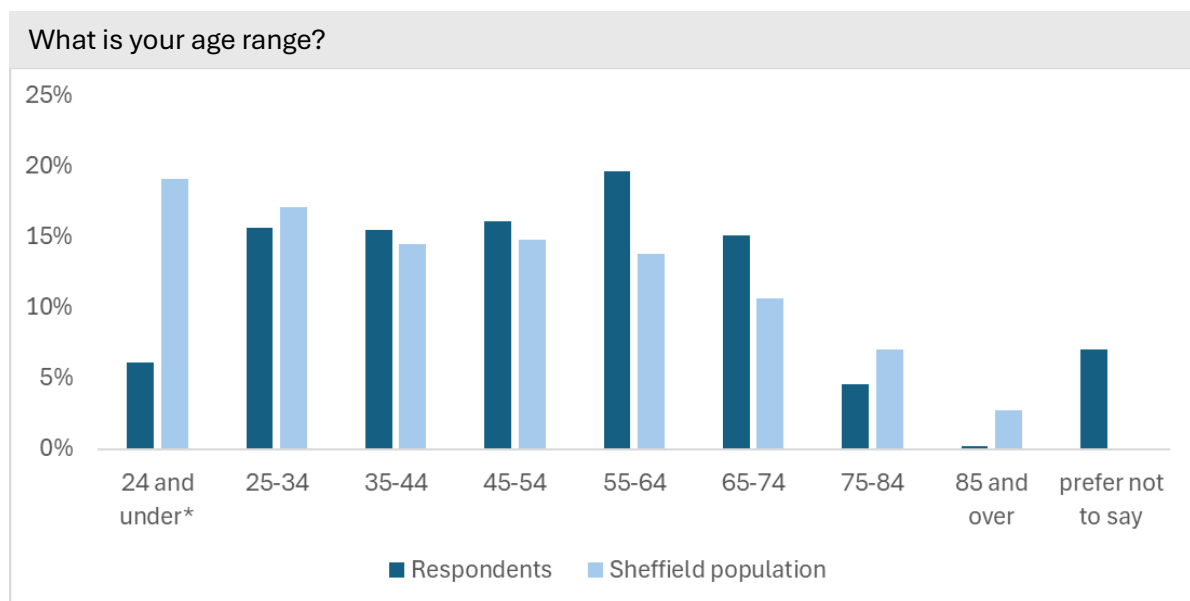
Responses from 1205 individuals were received. The majority of people who responded live in Sheffield although only a small proportion of these live in the city centre. Most have an interest in the city centre as a place to work, visit, study or own land. Of those responding 'Other' many had long standing family connections to Sheffield, some were connected through interests, activities and public roles within the city. A small but notable group reported lived experience of 'being' on the streets or were currently homeless.

Tell us about yourself



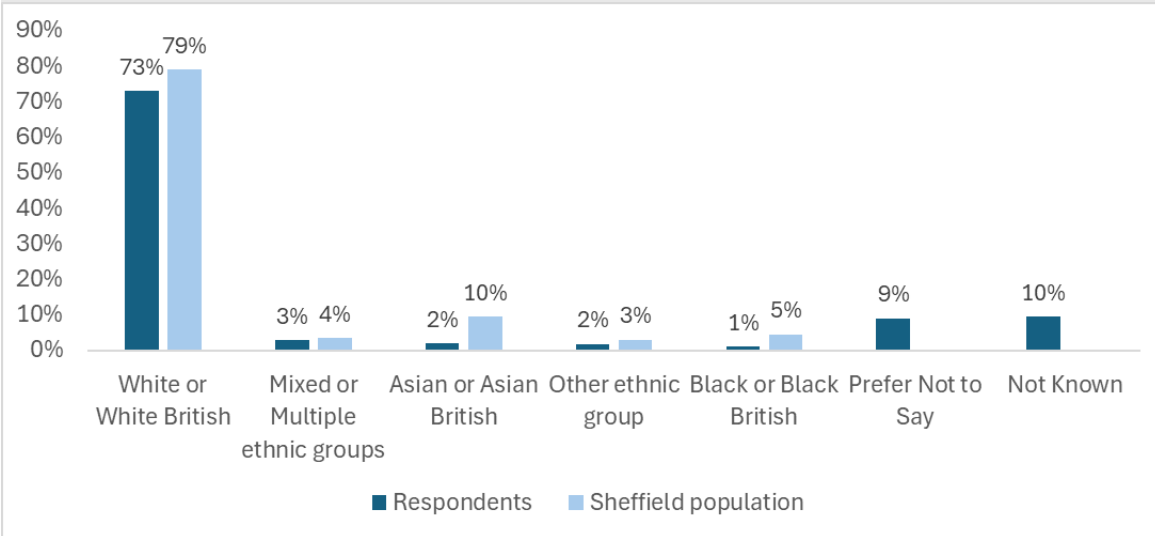
To understand how representative consultation respondents are of the Sheffield population as a whole an analysis of characteristics has been carried out using the ‘monitoring questions’. Respondent breakdown has been compared to information reported from the Office for National Statistics 2021 Census (the most recent comprehensive information about people living in Sheffield). Across all ‘monitoring’ questions there was a response rate of 91% this included those who chose the ‘Prefer not say’ option.

Some differences can be seen in those who responded compared to the Sheffield population. Broadly, fewer younger people responded compared to the population, particularly those people aged 24 years and under, more people in the older age groups responded compared to the population, specifically those people aged between 55 and 74 years. Very few people aged 85 years and over responded. Of those people who responded to this question 7% chose the ‘Prefer not to say’ option.



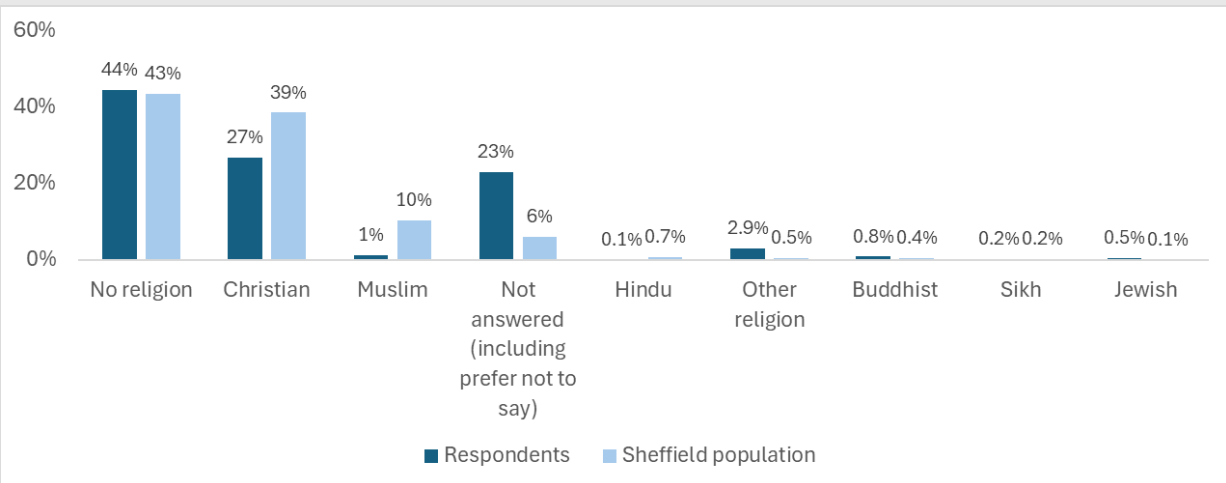
Differences can be seen in the ethnic group of those who responded compared to the population of Sheffield. Response rates from people from the ‘White or White British’ ethnic group and ‘Other ethnic group’ were broadly in-line with the Sheffield population. However, there was a much lower response rate than might have been expected from people in the ‘Asian or Asian British’ ethnic group and people from the ‘Black or Black British’ ethnic group. Over one in ten respondents chose not to answer this question and of those who did answer over 100 people chose the ‘Prefer not to say’ option. Together these represent a significant proportion of people responding to the survey.

What is your ethnicity?

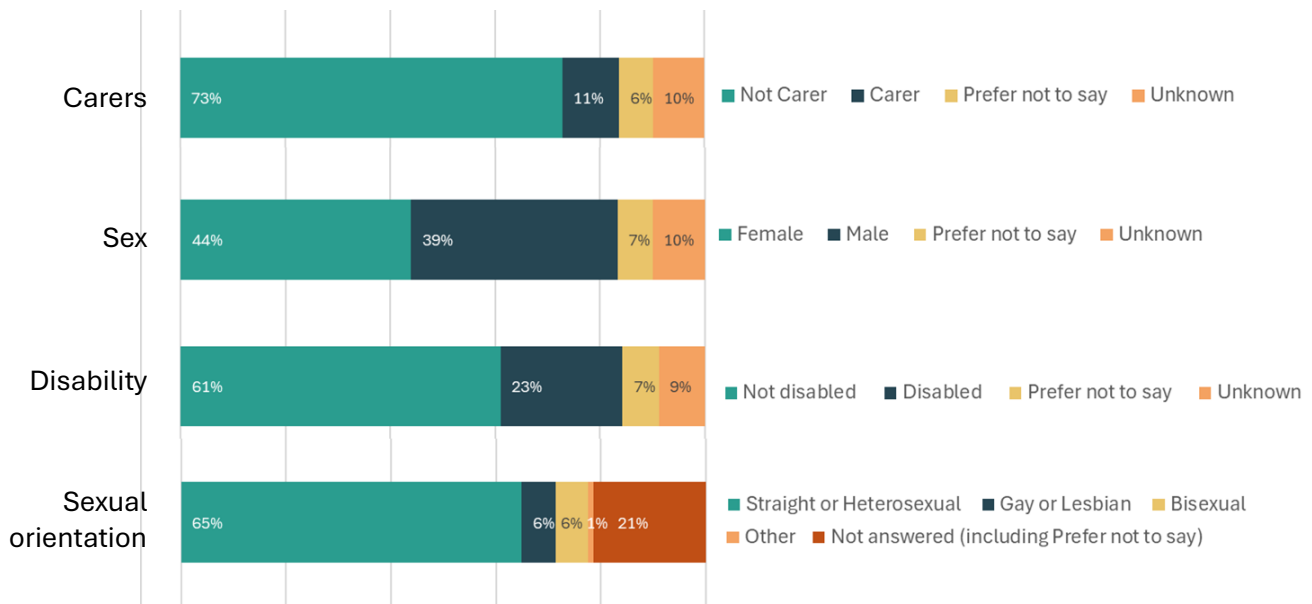


Differences can be seen in those who responded with different religions or beliefs compared to the population of Sheffield. Specifically, a much lower proportion of respondents who were Muslim responded compared to the Census and a lower proportion of people who are Christian responded than would have been expected. Almost a quarter of respondents chose Prefer not to say and there was a higher proportion of people choosing ‘Other religion’ compared to the Census responses.

What is your religion or belief?

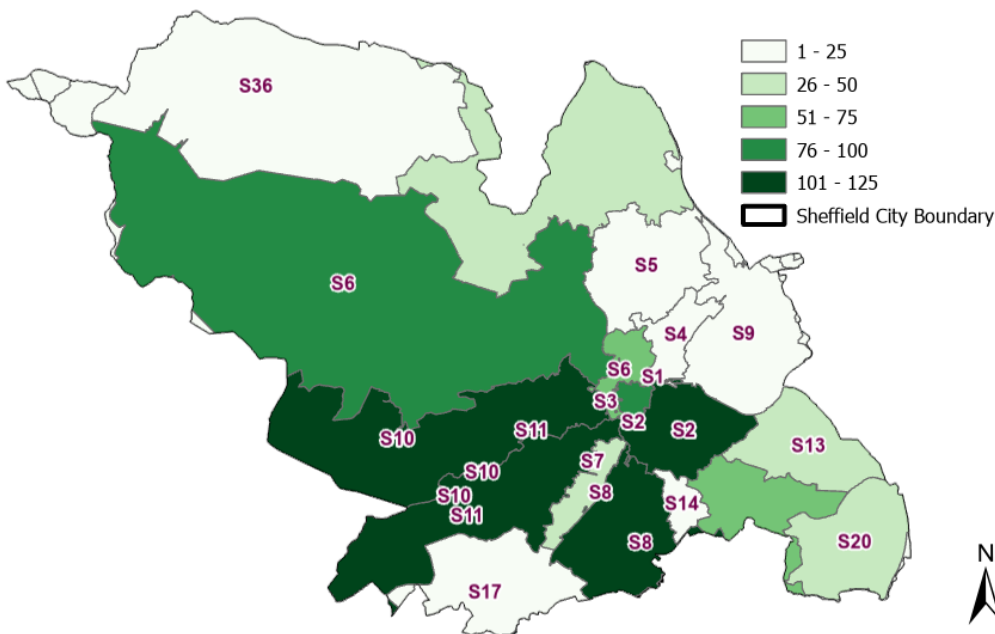


A number of monitoring questions had response rates broadly in-line with the Sheffield population according to the 2021 Census. The charts describing the response and comparison are provided in Appendix 1. An overview of responses is provided below:



Respondents were asked for the first part of their postcode, this enables the geographical spread of respondents to be understood. There is not an equal spread of responses from across the city. The majority of respondents gave home postcodes in the S10, S11, S8, S2, S1 and S6 areas, a number of areas within the S4, S5, S9, S14, S17, and S36 postcodes have fewer responses than might have been expected if responses were representative of the resident population of Sheffield. A sizeable number of respondents did not provide their postcodes. This accounts for 14% of the total number of individual respondents. A map showing individual responses by postcode is provided below:

PSPO Consultation Individual Responses
Postcode Areas



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS license number AC0000805013

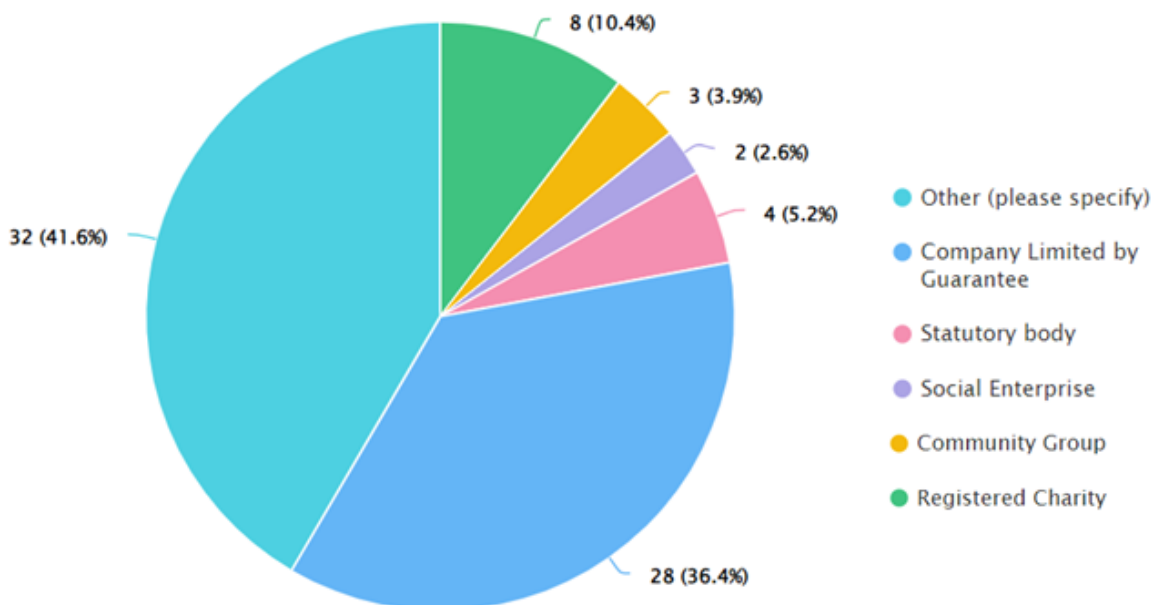
1.2 Organisations who responded

Respondents were asked a number of questions if completing formally on behalf of an organisation:

- *Name of the organisation*
- *Type of organisation*
- *Confirmation that the respondent was authorised to complete the survey on behalf of the named organisation*

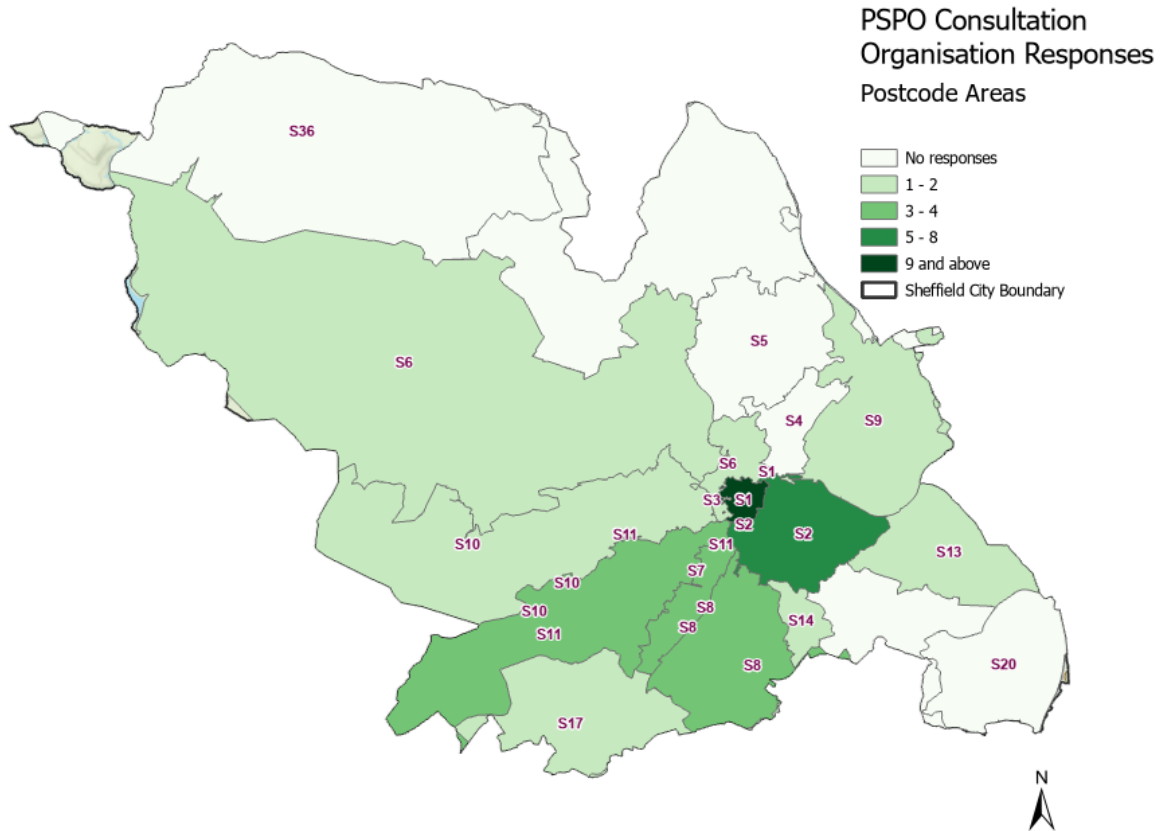
Responses from 77 organisations were received:

What type of organisation are you responding on behalf of?



Organisations choosing the other category included a diverse range of large public sector and education organisations, a number of banks, retail and hospitality businesses and a smaller number of partnerships, not for profit and community organisations. The responses to this question gives an indication that a broad range of sectors, sizes and types of organisations provided their views as part of the consultation.

Based on the responses, 60% of the organisations are located within the postcodes in S1 and S2 showing a good representation of organisations located within the city centre. A map showing organisation responses by postcode is provided below:



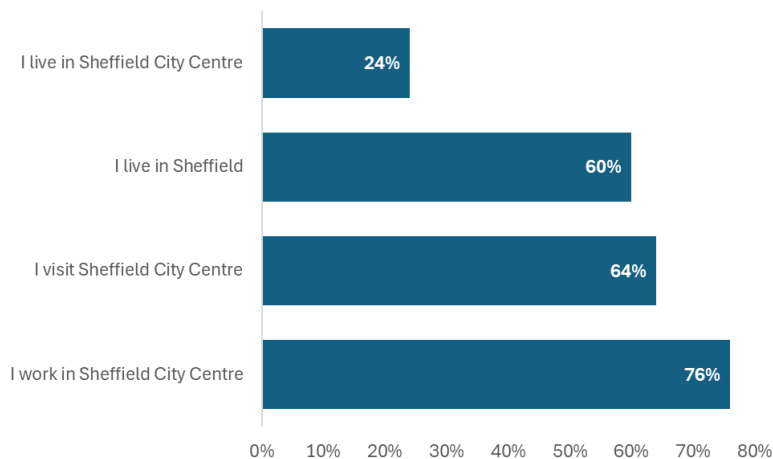
© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS license number AC0000805013

1.3 Landowners who responded

Landowners submitted 25 responses to the consultation, 60% of these were individual responses, 40% were responses on behalf of an organisation. Landowning organisations who provided responses included property owner, development and management companies, telemarketing companies, businesses in the hospitality and retail sector, large public sector organisations and not-for-profit organisations.

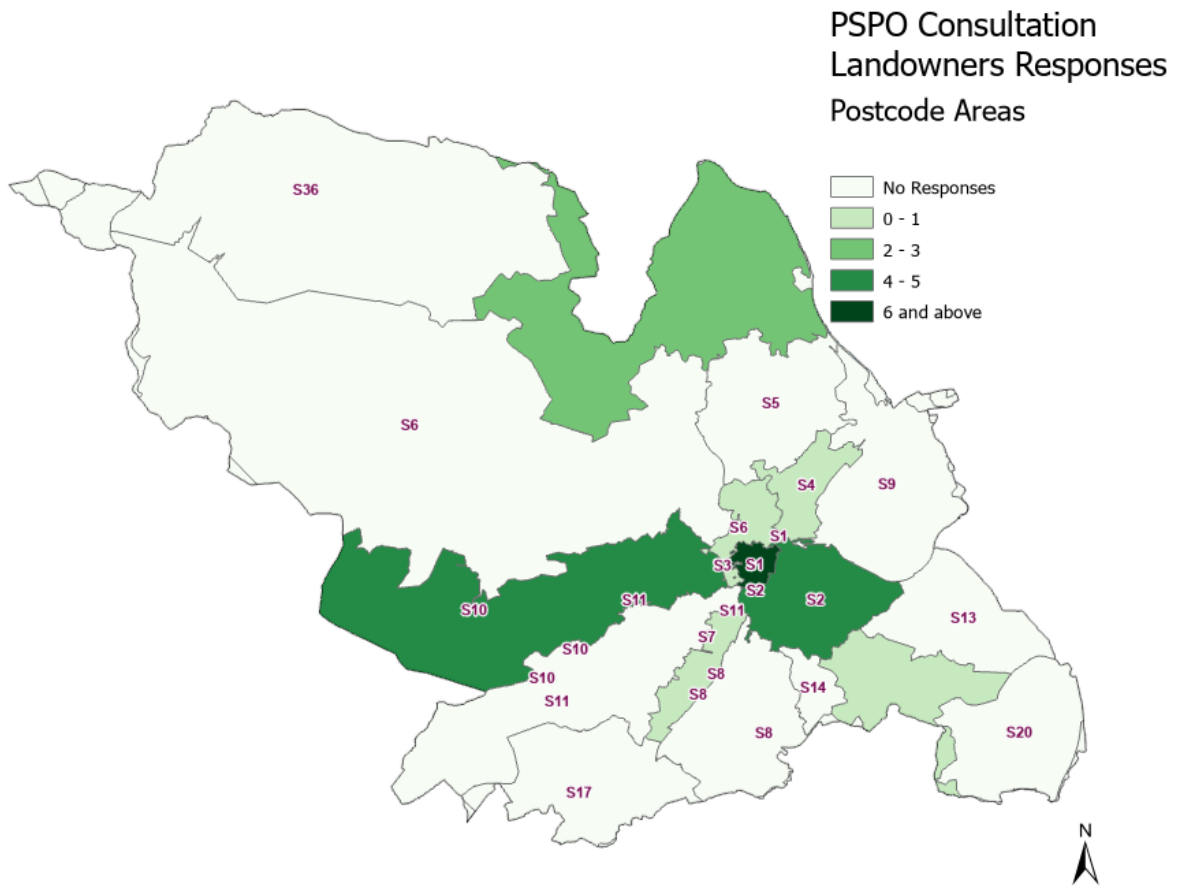
In addition to owning land in Sheffield city centre these respondents also identified other connections to Sheffield city centre.

Tell us about yourself



Total does not sum to 100% - respondents were able to choose all applicable options

A map showing landowner responses by postcode is provided below:



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS license number AC0000805013

2. Participants experience of anti-social behaviour

Three questions were asked to understand respondent's existing experience of anti-social behaviour in Sheffield city centre. None of these questions were compulsory, accompanying definitions were provided for clarity when describing issues.

- *In the last 12 months have you witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour in Sheffield City Centre?*
- *To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following issues, identified in the PSPO report are a problem in Sheffield city centre:*
 - *Drinking alcohol in public*
 - *Begging*
 - *Loitering*
 - *Public urination / defecation*
 - *Drug use*
- *Are there any other anti-social behaviour issues, not described already, which have caused you concern in Sheffield city centre?*

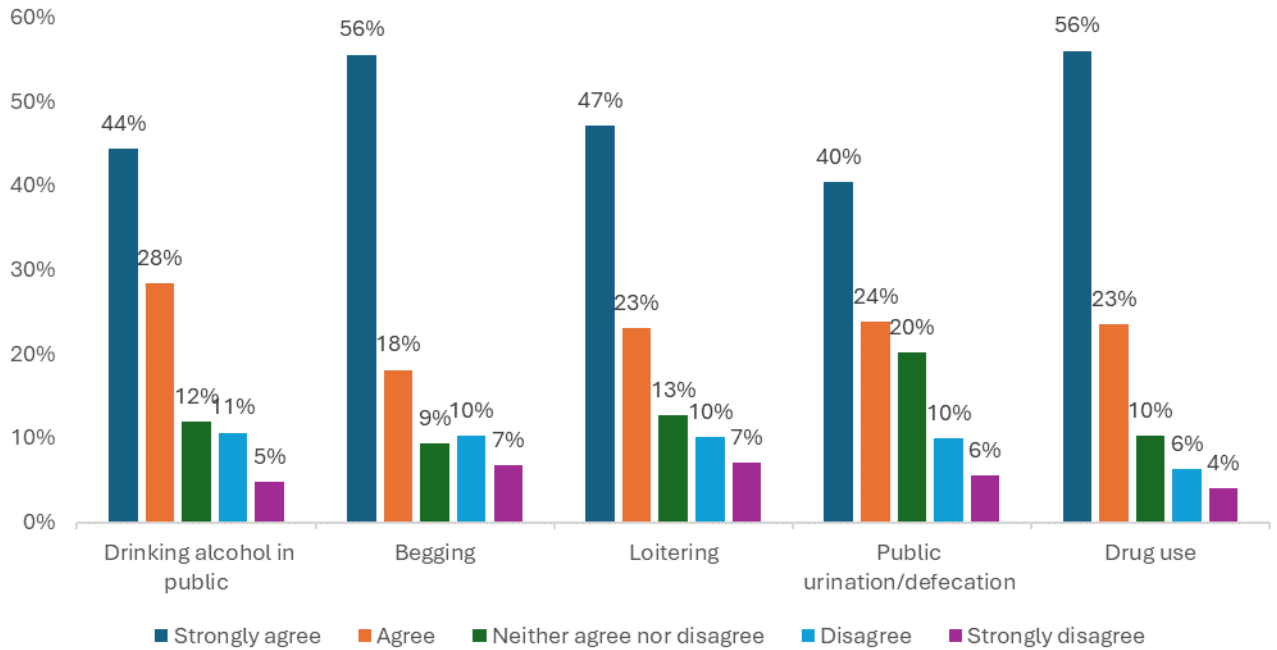
2.1 Experience of individuals

There was a good response rate of 99% to the question about individuals who had experienced anti-social behaviour in Sheffield city centre in the last 12 months. 82% of the respondents had experienced anti-social behaviour while 18% recorded no experience.

The majority of the individual respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the issues identified in the PSPO report as a problem in Sheffield city centre. A consistent proportion of one sixth of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with each anti-social behaviour identified with the exception of drug use which had a lower disagreement rate. Based on the Likert-scale (the degree to which people agree or disagree with a statement), the issues that stood out were Drug use (with 79% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed), Begging (with 74% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed) and Drinking alcohol in public (with 73% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed). The average response rate to each of the issues was 99%.

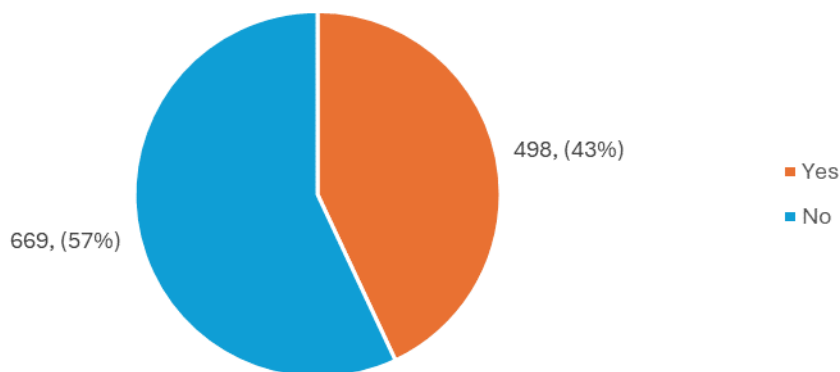
The chart below summarises the Likert-scale responses to this question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following issues, identified in the PSPO report, are a problem in Sheffield City Centre?



97% of individual respondents answered the question about other anti-social behaviour issues, not described in the PSPO report, which had caused them some concern in Sheffield city centre. 43% of respondents felt there were other issues not captured in the PSPO report.

Are there any other anti-social behaviour issues, not described in the above question, which have caused you concern in Sheffield City Centre?



497 individual respondents gave further details of these other types of anti-social behaviour. The most prominent of these issues were extracted and ranked according to their frequency the top issues are summarised in the table below:

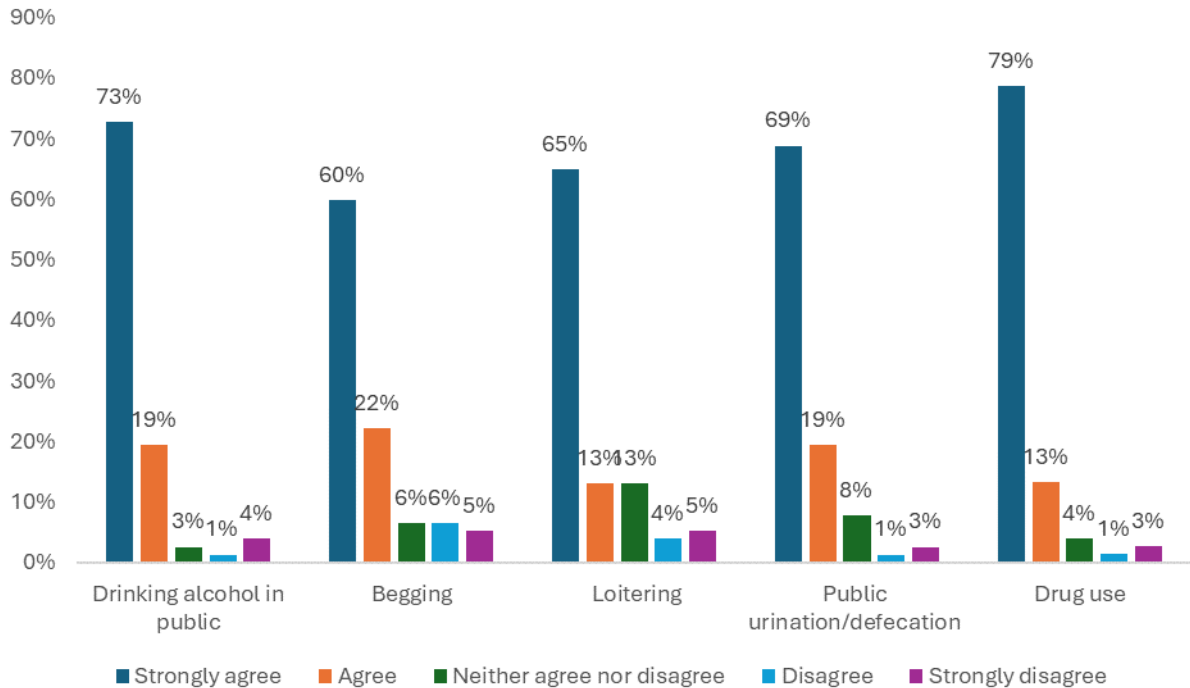
Issue	Frequency
Aggressive and violent behaviour	76
Loud religious preachers	41
Littering	39
Bike delivery riders on pavement	32
Dogs	23
Drug dealing	22
Graffiti	20
Poor/dangerous driving and parking	19
Loud buskers and street performers	17
Charity canvassers	14
Sexual harassment	13
Noise	12
Football fans (drunk, blocking traffic, crowding)	11
Abuse of staff in shops	8
Vandalism	6

2.2 Experience of organisations

All representatives of organisations responded to the question about witnessing anti-social behaviour in Sheffield City Centre. 92% of the respondents had experienced anti-social behaviour in Sheffield City Centre in the last 12 months.

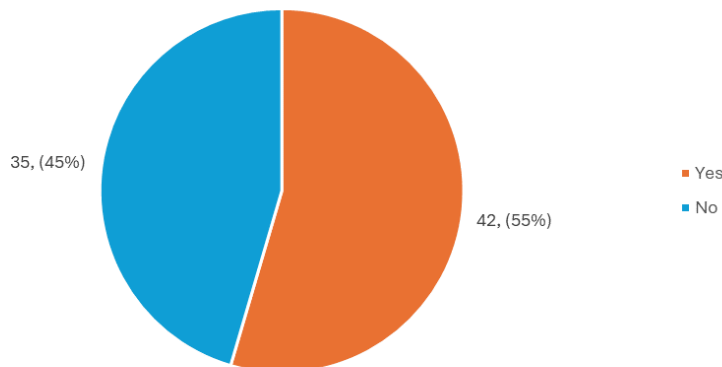
Based on the Likert-scale responses to this question, the issues that stood out were Drug use (with 92% who strongly agreed/agreed), Drinking alcohol in public (with 92% who strongly agreed/agreed) and Public urination/defecation (with 88% who strongly agreed/agreed). The chart below summarises the Likert-scale responses to this question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following issues, identified in the PSPO report, are a problem in Sheffield City Centre?



Of the organisational respondents 55% identified that there were other anti-social behaviour issues not captured in the PSPO report. 43 respondents from organisations further gave details of other anti-social behaviour not covered

Are there any other anti-social behaviour issues, not described in the above question, which have caused you concern in Sheffield City Centre?

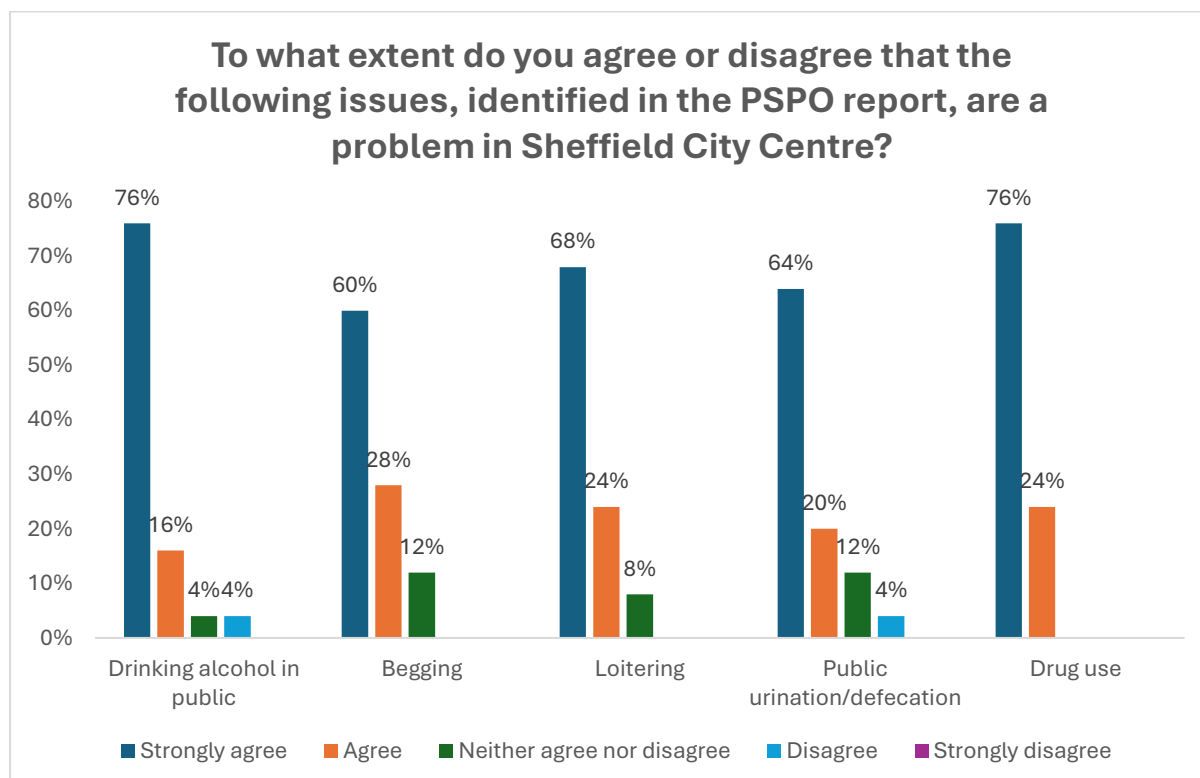


The most frequently identified of these issues were extracted and ranked, as summarised in the table below:

Issue	Frequency
Aggressive and violent behaviour	11
Drug dealing	8
Loud religious preachers	6
Loud buskers and street performers	5
Littering	5
Noise	4
Intruders on or in property (offices, estate, stairwells, residential buildings)	4
Graffiti	4
Abuse of staff in shops	2
Poor/dangerous driving and parking	2

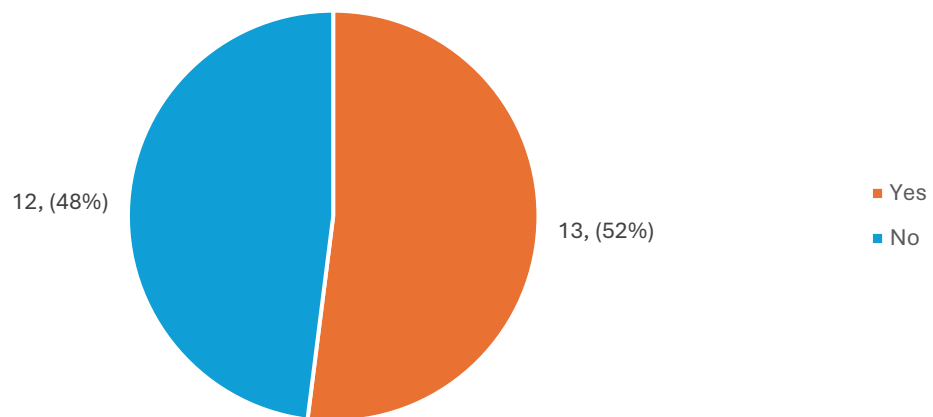
2.3 Experience of landowners

Of landowners who submitted responses to the consultation 24 out of the 25 stated that they had experienced anti-social behaviour in Sheffield city centre in the last 12 months. All landowners who participated in the consultation gave their views on the anti-social behaviour issues. Based on the Likert-scale responses to this question, the issues that stood out were Drug use (with 100% who strongly agreed/agreed), Drinking alcohol in public (with 92% who strongly agreed/agreed) and Loitering (with 92% who strongly agreed/agreed). The chart below summarises the Likert-scale responses to this question:



All 25 respondents who identified as landowners in Sheffield answered the question about any other anti-social behaviour issues, not described in the PSPO report, which had caused them some concern in Sheffield city centre. Over half responded that there were other issues not captured in the PSPO report and 13 gave identified further specific issues:

Are there any other anti-social behaviour issues, not described in the above question, which have caused you concern in Sheffield City Centre?



The most prominent of these issues according to their frequency were “Aggressive and violent behaviour” and “Drug dealing”. Other notable issues according to Landowners include “Graffiti”, “Loud religious preachers” and “Loud buskers and street performers”.

3. Participants views on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order

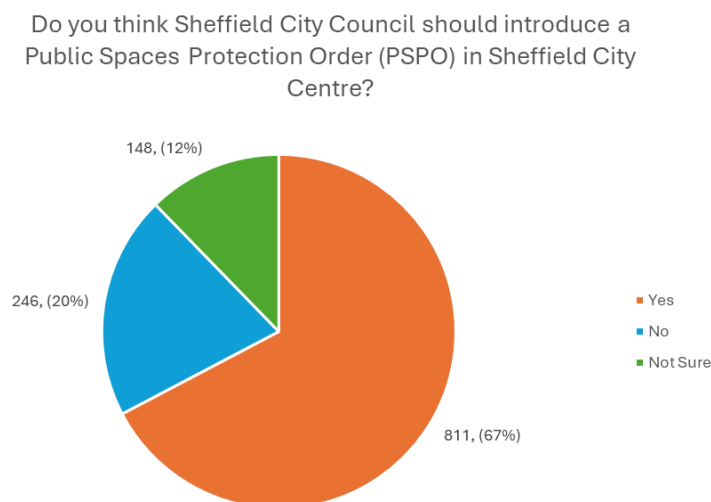
Six questions and prompts were asked to understand respondent’s views on the proposed PSPO. One of these was compulsory, accompanying definitions were provided for clarity when describing each restriction.

- *Do you think Sheffield City Council should introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Sheffield city centre? (compulsory)*
- *Please tell us about your answer to the above question*
- *Looking at the restrictions in the proposed PSPO, to what extent do you agree or disagree they are necessary?*
 - *Alcohol on the streets*
 - *Begging*
 - *Loitering*
 - *Drug use*
 - *Urination and/or defecation*
- *Please tell us about your answer to the above question*
- *Looking at the proposed area map of the PSPO, do you think it covers the right area?*
- *If you have any other comments about the proposed PSPO not covered elsewhere please write them here*

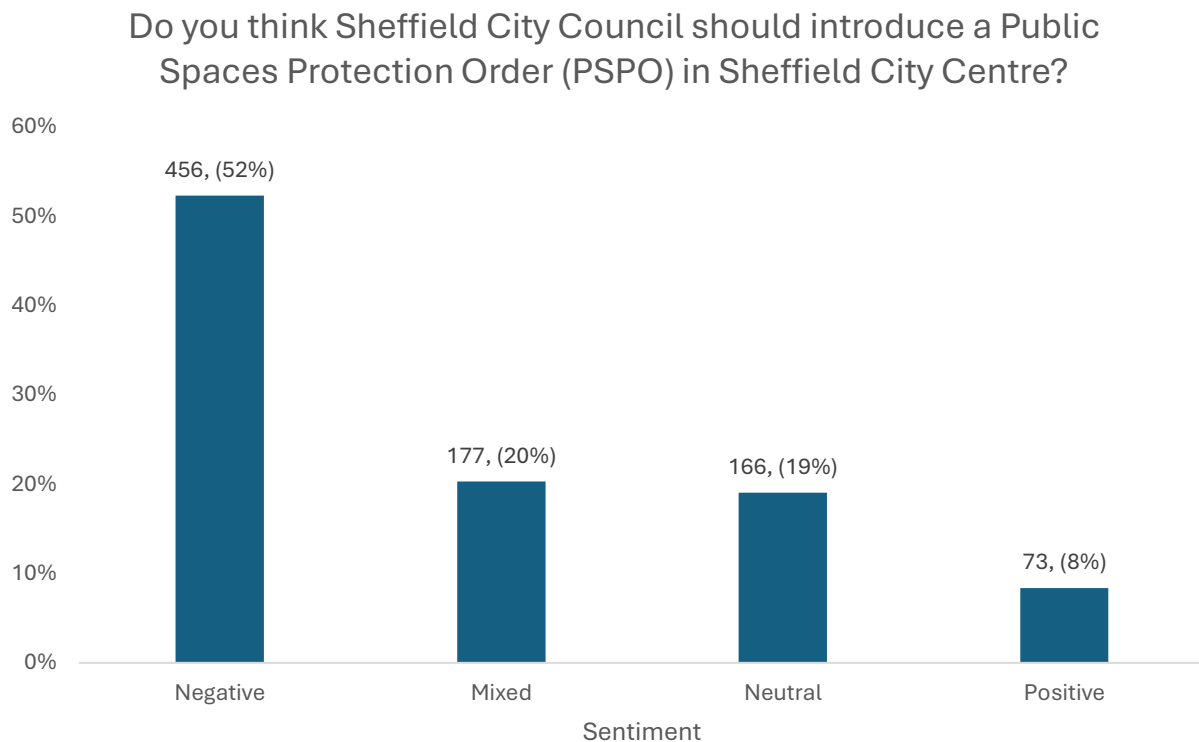
3.1 The proposed PSPO in Sheffield City Centre

3.1.1 Individual respondents

All 1205 individual respondents gave their views on the mandatory question about the proposed introduction of a PSPO in Sheffield city centre. 67% of individuals were in support of the introduction of a PSPO. The breakdown of the responses to this question is shown in the chart below:



872 individual respondents gave further comments on the introduction of a PSPO in Sheffield city centre. These comments have been analysed based on the sentiments of the respondents as shown in the chart below:



531 out of the 872 individual respondents who gave further comments about the introduction of a PSPO initially answered “Yes” to the question of should there be an introduction of a PSPO in the city centre. Some of these comments are highlighted below:

“I do not feel safe shopping in the city centre especially around High Street. Avoided Chapel Walk as there were men hanging around the Fargate entrance. I was frightened of being mugged. Wouldn’t say people are drunk they just look intimidating.”

“It has become scary to go outside in the evening or just even taking a walk in the daytime as every time someone would either be following asking me for money or someone would be urinating in the street or just groups of lads would be causing havoc and yelling”

“We’re DESPERATE for help, the council aren’t doing anything & health & safety is now a major issue for city centre users & residents living nearby.”

“I think it will help to make me feel much safer and it may make people want to revisit the city centre as a lot of people now avoid the city centre due to begging, drug use and homelessness. It effects the older generation who now would rather stay at home than go out into the community”

“it’s threatening when people are drunk/drugs asking for money, stopping you at cash points and outside stores, it’s absolutely not acceptable, it put me off actually going into the city centre!”

221 out of the 872 individual respondents who gave further comments about the introduction of a PSPO initially answered “No” to the question of should there be an introduction of a PSPO in the city centre. Some of these comments are highlighted below:

“I do not think a modern city like Sheffield should introduce legislation that seeks to criminalise activity not already covered under existing criminal law. The proposed test of causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress is much too subjective, particularly when applied to 'loitering', but also 'begging.' The latter condition would (so far as it is drawn up) ban all requests for money, even from charities...”

“A PSPO will not address the issues behind anti-social behaviour. It will further marginalise very vulnerable people. People and problems will be dispersed to areas just outside the boundary. Time and money will be wasted in policing what are essentially health and social care issues. I live in Walkley, such issues have increased locally over the past few years, the PSPO will worsen it.”

“While the intentions of this proposal are good, I do not believe it is the right solution. It is the equivalent of sweeping the dirt under the rug. The proposal does not address the root causes of these issues, in fact, I believe it could make those root causes worse. As far as drug use is concerned, again this is covered by criminal law...”

“I think that this PSPO is unlikely to lead to sustainable and long-term change. The roots of the issues are left unaddressed by this Order which leaves me to believe it will be a waste of time and money. Only treating symptoms in isolation in a punitive way will not move us forward to a safer city-centre.... I additionally feel it relies on people feeling safer around police, which I do not believe most of us do. Having read the document I feel it will increase cases of discrimination if anything, which genuinely concerns me.”

120 out of the 872 individual respondents who gave further initially answered “Not Sure” to the question of should there be an introduction of a PSPO in the city centre. Some of these comments are highlighted below:

“In principle it is a good idea, but having worked for the police, I know there are not enough police officers to deal with the issues. Also the people committing ASB will just move to the periphery of the PSPO zone. At least in the central area there is CCTV surveillance to keep an eye on the antics of the drug and drink users.”

“I understand why SCC are considering this option. I worry that even though you are saying that you would be looking at unmet needs etc, the people who are most vulnerable would have nowhere to go. I think that if you are going to introduce this you also need to do some work on what services are available for homeless people and what drug and alcohol services are available, and what can be done to improve those services. I also think that if you are saying people who are potentially homeless or don't have anywhere to go during the day should be officially prevented from urinating and defecating on the streets then you should

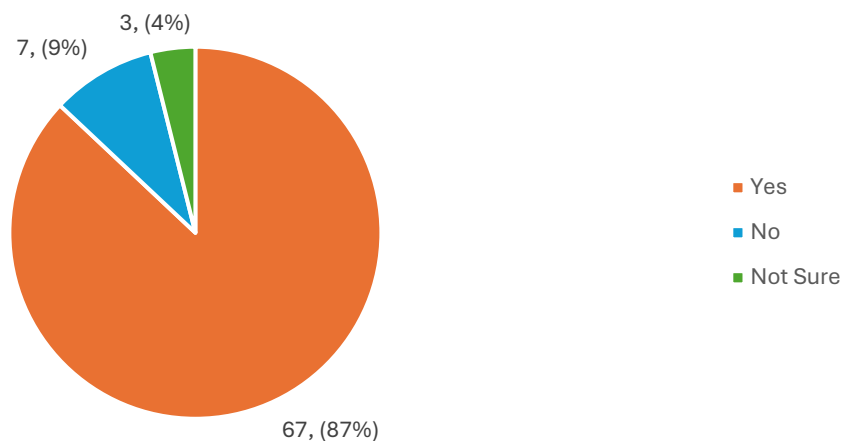
look at what public toilets are available for them as an alternative and increase their availability (which would also benefit the general public and in particular people with medical problems or disabilities. ... The phrasing 'in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance, or annoyance' is just generally very ambiguous as it will mean different things for different people. Someone could be sitting there silently causing no harm to anyone just with their hands out etc, and people will still find that 'annoying', even though that person isn't actually doing anything to them."

"I would only agree to it if at the same time there were additional resources put in place to help and support the people targeted. Could there be more publicity about donating to local homeless charities as an alternative to giving money to people begging."

3.1.2 Organisation respondents

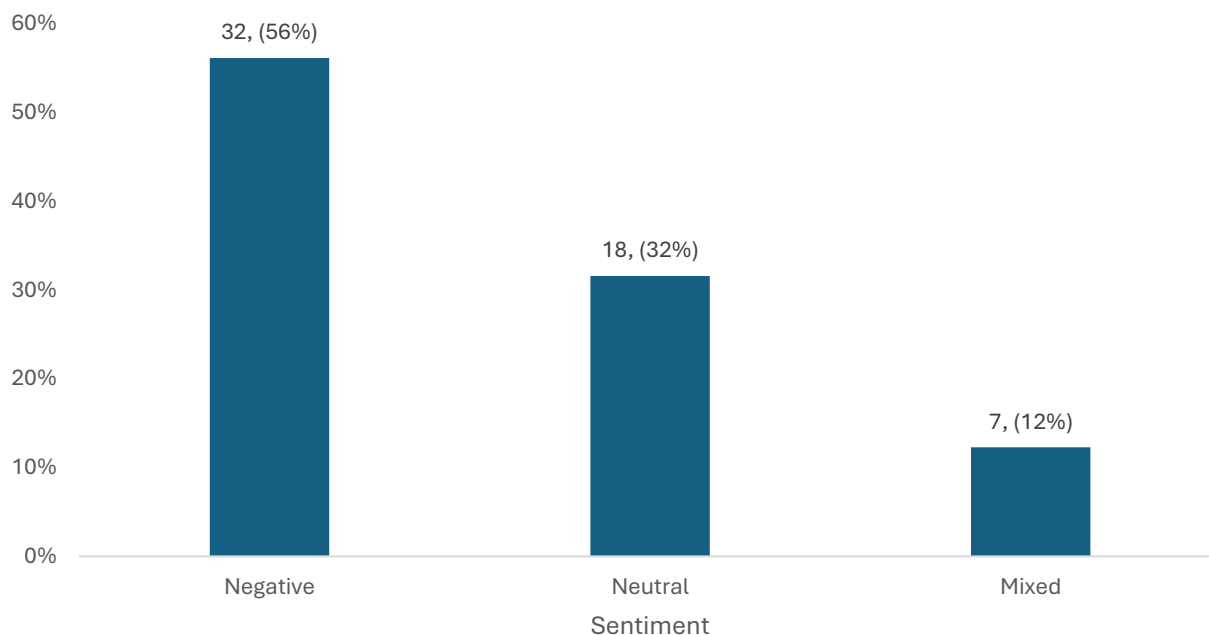
Of the 77 respondents who participated in the consultation of behalf of organisations 87% of respondents were in support of the introduction of a PSPO in Sheffield city centre. The breakdown of the response to this question is shown in the chart below:

Do you think Sheffield City Council should introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Sheffield City Centre?



57 of these organisation respondents gave further comments. These comments have been analysed based on the sentiments of the respondents as shown in the chart below:

Do you think Sheffield City Council should introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Sheffield City Centre?



49 out of the 57 organisation respondents who gave further initially answered “Yes” to the question on the introduction of the PSPO in the city centre. A respondent representing a Company Limited by Guarantee said:

“Yes please. This is absolutely essential, both for the development of the city centre, to encourage investment, enable businesses to succeed, attract new business to the city and to keep residents/ workers safe. We own premises throughout the city, including Arundel Gate, Barker's Pool, Campo Lane and Division Street, and the above issues are continual problems that are getting worse. Drinking, drug use, urination, defecation, graffiti, abuse, threatening behaviour and vandalism are amongst the main problems. We also have the same people loitering around building entrances, threatening tenants/ residents/ staff and trying to gain access to buildings. Once inside buildings, we've had the same problems as above, as well as smoking and setting fire alarms off.”

Another respondent representing a Registered Charity also said:

“We run a supported housing scheme based on Charter Row - we regularly get large groups of non-residents gathering outside our building to consume alcohol and drugs / deal drugs and engage in general rowdy / disorderly behaviour which impacts upon our staff team throughout the course of the day and throughout the evening including incidents of arguing, fighting, overdose, urination, littering and loitering. These can also be intimidating for members of the public - we would welcome a PSPO to reduce the opportunities for these behaviours.”

A representative of an ‘Other’ type of organisation commented that:

“The City Centre is key to the recovery of the City and its long-term wellbeing and that of its citizens. It needs to be made a safe and joyful space to visit, socialise and enjoy the heritage.”

6 out of the 57 organisation respondents who gave further comments about the introduction of a PSPO initially answered “No” to the question on the introduction of a PSPO in the city centre. A respondent representing a Registered Charity said:

“While there are clearly problems in Sheffield City Centre, I am not convinced that a PSPO would solve anything. The problems of homelessness go very deeply and are rooted way before someone begins to behave in an anti-social way. Criminalising those who have, more often than not, suffered significant trauma does not bring any solutions to the underlying problems. I am concerned that this would add to the burden of police work rather than ease it. Are there not things in place already to deal with some of the behaviour described such as Community Behaviour Orders?...”

Another respondent representing a Company Limited by Guarantee also said:

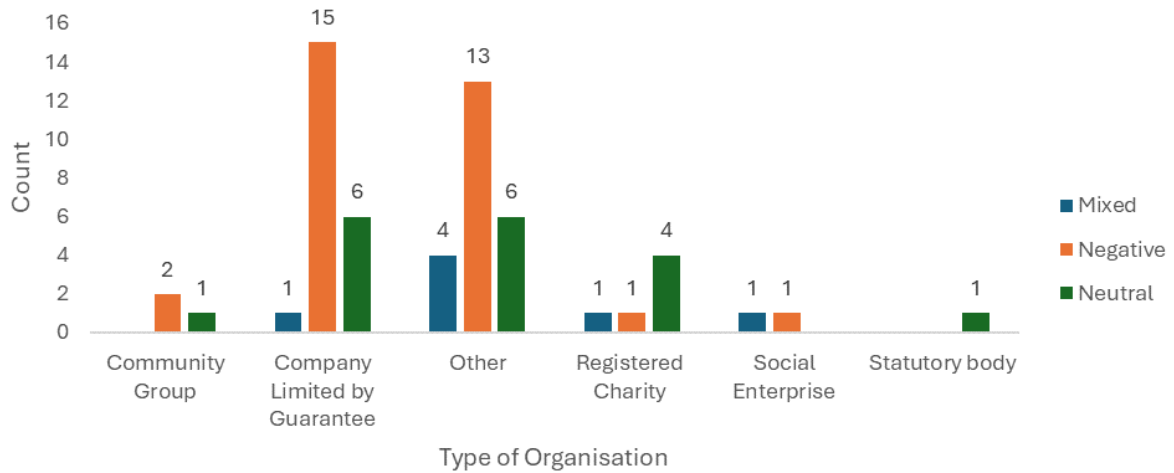
“I feel like it will be used as a way to legitimise pushing homeless people out of the city centre to the immediately surrounding area. Rather than investing in sorting out the problem, just push it away and let private investors turn the city centre into an avalanche of cafes and bars. Lets face it most of the terms are designed to target homeless people.”

A further 2 out of the 57 organisation respondents who gave further comments about the introduction of a PSPO initially answered “Not Sure” to the question on the introduction of PSPO in the city centre. One of the respondents said:

“This needs to be done with care and consideration for the vulnerable people with substance issues. Where will they go? What provisions are there?”

The chart below cross-references these sentiments analysis with type of organisation they were responding on behalf of:

Do you think Sheffield City Council should introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Sheffield City Centre?

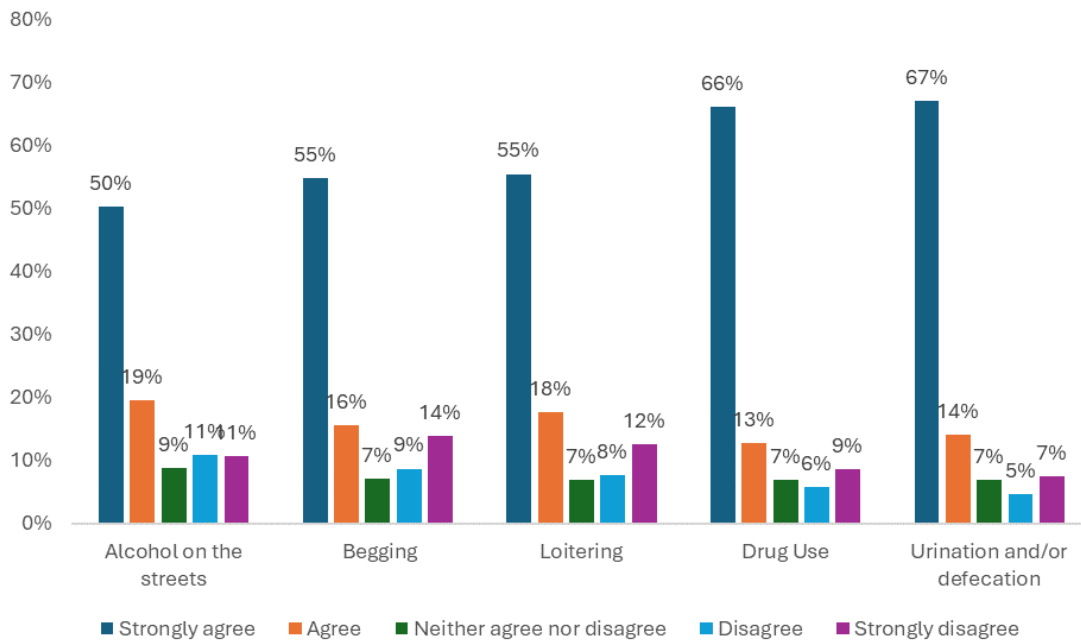


3.2 The proposed PSPO restrictions

3.2.1 Individual respondents

99% of individual respondents answered the questions to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the specific restrictions in the proposed PSPO were necessary. The majority of the individual respondents agreed that the restrictions were necessary. The restrictions that stood out were Urination and/or defecation (with 81% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed), Drug Use (with 79% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed) and Loitering (with 73% of individual respondents who strongly agreed/agreed). The chart below summarises the Likert-scale responses to this question:

Looking at the restrictions in the proposed PSPO, to what extent do you agree or disagree they are necessary?



630 individual respondents gave further comments about the restrictions in the proposed PSPO. These comments have been analysed based on the sentiments of the respondents with 312 negative sentiments, 147 neutral sentiments, 125 mixed sentiments and 46 positive sentiments. Some of these comments are highlighted below:

Urination and/or defecation

“I do not believe there are sufficient public provisions for toilet facilities for it to be ethical to enforce restrictions against public urination and defecation, as disgusting as it is...”

“As regards urination, or defaecation in public places, then I strongly believe more provision needs to be made for public toilets in the city centre as otherwise homeless people have no other option, especially if they are refused entry to pubs or bars to use their toilets.”

Drug use

“... in my opinion the main problem is people who are already under the influence rather than actively using drugs. Confiscating substances will help curtail the behaviour however I'm not sure it will tackle the users falling asleep in the middle of the street or vomiting in doorways or screaming at one another on High Street. Removing those people under the influence to a safe space alongside confiscating their substances might be a more helpful approach although I appreciate resources are likely to be unavailable to support this.”

“Drug use is already covered by existing legislation”

Loitering

“Think loitering should include all business not just supermarkets and banks. E.g. McDonalds, Subway, Greggs etc all have issues with ASB.”

“...with regards to the clause on "Loitering", the definition given for this restriction is much too open to interpretation: "in a manner that may cause or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance, or annoyance to any person" is wholly subjective and is likely to be used against people who look a certain way, so there is huge potential for racial bias and other biases to be involved in decision-making.”

“'Loitering' is such a vague concept that often leads to harassment of marginalised peoples.”

Begging

“I am concerned that the restriction on begging may criminalise already very vulnerable and disadvantaged people, who will of course be very unlikely to be able to pay any penalty imposed.”

“As for begging I believe that Sheffield has a great deal of help for those that currently see the need to beg in terms of food, drink and shelter.”

“In the case of begging and loitering I believe the terms 'distress' or especially 'annoyance' can be far too subjective, which can lead to many unfair outcomes.”

“Arundel Gate can feel very unsafe, I have had to stop using the bus stop in that area due to people hanging around who are begging and being verbally abusive”

Alcohol on the streets

“...one of the perceived benefits of living in Sheffield is the access to green spaces. In the summer months, these spaces are often have people engaging safely in alcohol consumption and it makes for quite a nice environment and also brings people into the City centre”

“I worry that the Alcohol restriction could be applied too broadly but it is a necessary part of the PSPO”

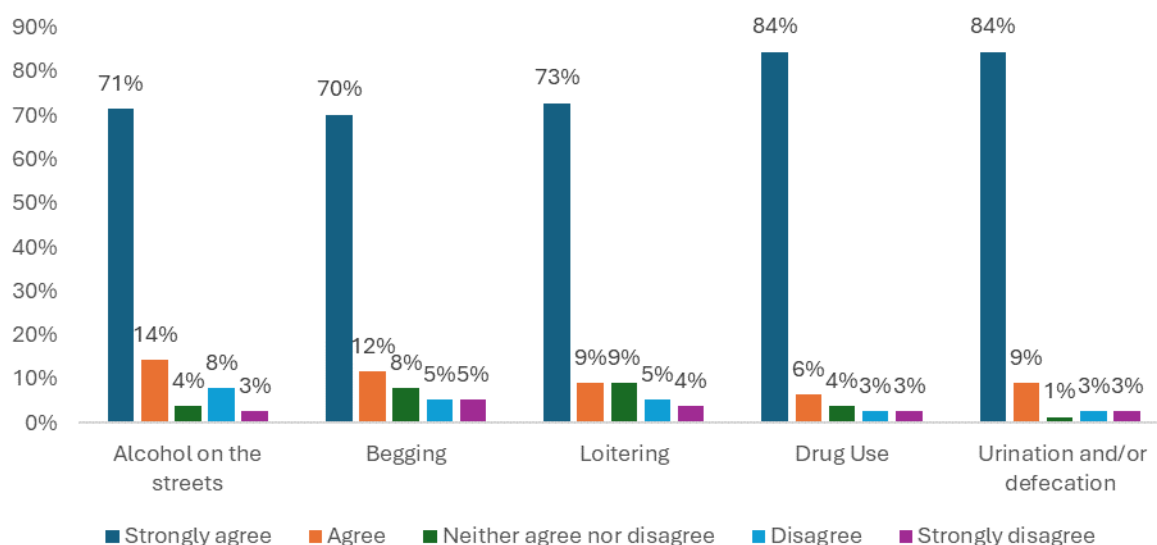
“In terms of drinking, we know that many homeless people will drink or use drugs to help deal with their circumstances, we should be looking at preventing the cause rather than the act itself”

“Drinking alcohol on the streets is not a problem - being drunk and aggressive is”

3.2.2 Organisation respondents

All 77 respondents representing organisations answered the question to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the specific restrictions in the proposed PSPO were necessary. Based on the Likert-scale responses to this question, the restrictions that stood out were Urination and/or defecation (with 94% who strongly agreed/agreed), Drug Use (with 91% who strongly agreed/agreed) and Alcohol on the streets (with 86% who strongly agreed/agreed). The chart below summarises responses to this question:

Looking at the restrictions in the proposed PSPO, to what extent do you agree or disagree they are necessary?



41 respondents representing organisations gave further comments on the restrictions in the proposed PSPO. Some of these comments are highlighted below:

Urination and/or defecation

“There is also a problem with the lack of any public toilets in the City centre that contributes to the urination problem.”

“The restriction on urination is perhaps fair enough, so long as there are widely available free public toilets in the area concerned. Otherwise you are punishing homeless people for a natural fact that they have no other means to deal with”

Drug use

“We have people come into the store daily with cans of alcohol or people coming in who have consumed drugs. It isn’t fair/ safe for us to deal with this as 9 times out of 10 they become very aggressive. Shoplifting is obviously a

major issue and when dealing with shoplifters they are usually drunk/ have consumed drugs”

“In our restaurants we had to put codes on toilets door because of homeless people taking drugs in it.”

“I feel stopping drugs and alcohol consumption in the Fitzalan Square will drastically reduce violence and improve the community”

Loitering

“The restrictions on begging and loitering are extremely broad - almost every act of begging or standing still could fall under this PSPO

“Loitering can be stopped if they are moved on but to loiter somewhere else”

Begging

“...places such as bus interchanges and rail stations are often seen as attractive locations for begging, and as such the PSPO process needs to properly engage with the resources involved in managing these locations”

“I don't agree that stopping begging and loitering will have the same affect [reduce violence and improve community] and I worry that it is a step in the direction of demonising the poor and vulnerable, which I feel is cruel.”

“Drafting the powers so broadly is sloppy and will not lead to a fair or effective enforcement; rather it will lead to the harassment of homeless people and other disapproved of groups.”

Alcohol on the streets

“...the only concern is the alcohol order - we have great green spaces like Devonshire green where especially in summer we see people enjoying the space responsibly, people have and will want to enjoy an alcoholic drink sat on the grass. I believe if they are not causing nuisance then they should be allowed, so there has to be some flexibility with that restriction”

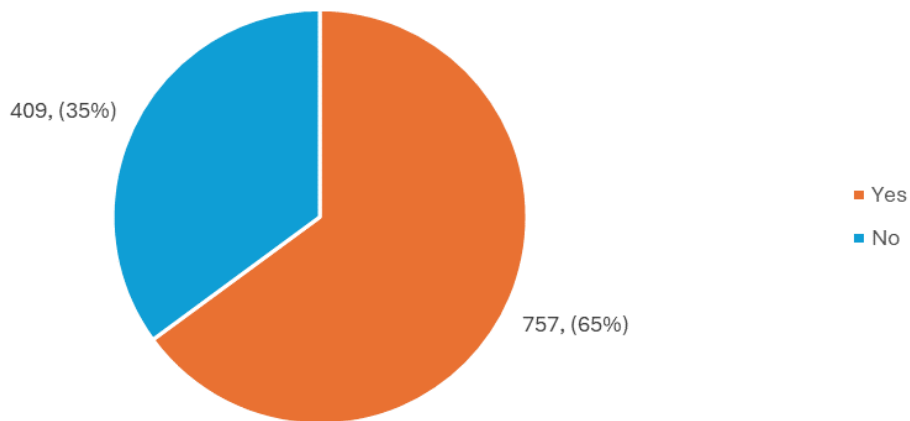
“The crime should be drunk and disorderly behaviour, not the mere possession of an open container, which can be perfectly pleasant and social.”

3.3 The proposed PSPO boundary

3.3.1 Individual respondents

The majority (65%) of individual respondents agree that the proposed PSPO boundary covers the right area. Over 400 people felt it didn't cover the right area. Only 39 out of the 1205 respondents in this category skipping the question. The breakdown of the response to this question is shown in the chart below:

Looking at the proposed area map of the PSPO, do you think it covers the right area?



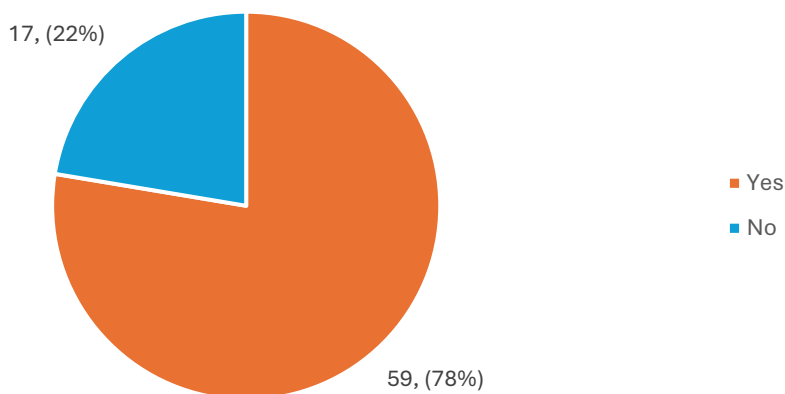
409 individual respondents gave further comments about the proposed PSPO boundary. Breaking down these views, 153 individual respondents said the proposed PSPO boundary should be bigger while 47 individual respondents said the area should be smaller. Another notable comment from 27 individual respondents was that introducing the proposed PSPO in the city centre will only push the issues to other areas rather than addressing them. The specific areas that should be included in the PSPO area suggested by the individual respondents are further summarised in the table below:

Area	Count
Kelham Island	39
Parkhill & South Street	26
Whole city	22
Ecclesall Road	17
London Road	13
Roads around railway station	8
Clay Wood	4
Parks near City Centre	4
Spital Hill	3

3.3.2 Organisation respondents

The majority (78%) of representatives of organisations agreed that the proposed PSPO boundary covers the right area. Only 1 out of the 77 respondents in this category skipped the question. The breakdown of the response to this question is shown in the chart below:

Looking at the proposed area map of the PSPO, do you think it covers the right area?



18 organisation respondents gave further comments about the proposed PSPO boundary. 10 respondents said the area covered should be bigger by extending it to other areas, no responses suggested a smaller area. Respondents also gave specific areas which they felt should be covered by the proposed PSPO. These notable areas were described as seen in the table below:

Area	Count
Kelham Island	3
London Road	2
Parkhill & South Street	2
Parks near the City Centre	1

4. Conclusions

- A significant majority of individuals, organisations and landowners who responded to the consultation had witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months.
- Anti-social behaviours were not limited to those set out in the PSPO proposal and a further set of consistent but wide ranging anti-social behaviours were identified as issues by respondents, e.g. aggressive and violent behaviour, loud religious preaching, littering and bike deliver riders on pavements.
- Just over two thirds of individual respondents thought Sheffield City Council should introduce a PSPO in the city centre, a higher proportion (87%) of organisations who responded agreed with the introduction.
- Further comments were made reflecting views of both supporters of the PSPO and those who didn't agree with its introduction. These comments centred on:
 - People wanting to feel safe and able to visit and use the city centre in the day, evening and at night
 - A concern that the PSPO would have a big or disproportionate impact on people who were homeless
 - That setting a boundary may move the anti-social behaviour issues to other areas
 - A consistent and strong concern that preventing and stopping many of the anti-social behaviours identified relied on people having access to appropriate services, support and facilities
- Respondents had views on the specific anti-social behaviours identified in the PSPO – whilst many felt restriction were necessary to enable feelings of safety there were some concern, e.g. a frequent strong view that more city centre public toilet facilities are required, that language defining loitering and begging is too open to interpretation potential leading to bias in application and that banning alcohol on the streets could restrict people making use of the city centre for social gatherings.
- Just under two thirds of individual respondents thought the proposed PSPO covered the right area, a slightly higher 78% of organisation respondents felt the area was right.
- Further comments identified other areas that should be considered for inclusion in the PSPO boundary, the most common suggestions were Kelham Island, Park Hill and South Street – the later two were often identified by individuals who were resident in those areas.
- The consultation had a wide reach. Some groups within the city were less represented than might have been expected from a consultation that was fully representative when compared to the ONS 2021 Census, e.g. those under 24 and those over 85 years, people from Asian or Asian British and Black or Black British ethnic groups, and people who are Muslim. There was less participation in the consultation from people who live in the east, north east and south east of Sheffield particularly S4, S5 and S9.

Appendix 1- respondents monitoring questions

