

# Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way

## Guidance Notes

It is a criminal offence to obstruct, or to damage the surface of, a public right of way without lawful authority.

Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows for the temporary closure of a Public Right of Way to enable the applicant to carry out works. The temporary closure order can be in force for a maximum period of six months, but an extension to a total of eighteen months can be applied for to The Secretary of State for Transport.

A minimum of four weeks notice is required by the Council to process a temporary closure order. Two notices must be published in the local press, seven days apart, before work commences. Copies of the notice must also be erected on site. A minimum period of two months notice is required if an extension is to be applied for.

It should be noted however, that in emergency cases there are other powers which dispense with the publication requirement.

It is the applicants responsibility to:

1. Identify the route/s affected on a map of the area.
2. Providing a description of the route/s affected.
3. Provide details of the work to be carried out.
4. Identify the likely time scale for the work to be carried out.
5. Identify and describe an alternative route that the public can use.
6. Ensure that access remains available for any private rights which may exist to properties.
7. Erect the required notices on site provided by the Council.
8. Pay for the administration and advertising costs for the closure of the route/s.
9. On completion of the time period allowed for the temporary closure, an inspection would be carried out to ensure the right of way is open and available for public use.