HM Prison & Probation Service

Restriction Zones

Helping to keep victims safe

EASY READ

This leaflet provides general information.

Your Victim Liaison Officer will explain the arrangements that apply to you.

My Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) is:

Name: _____

Contact number: _____



What is a restriction zone?



A restriction zone is a new, serious licence condition.

Licence conditions are rules an offender must follow after they leave prison.

A restriction zone means the offender must stay in a set area. They are used to help protect victims and the public.

Most restriction zones are monitored with an electronic tag.

A restriction zone is different from an exclusion zone. An exclusion zone stops an offender going into a set area.

When can a restriction zone be used?

A restriction zone is one of the strictest licence conditions available. They are not suitable for every case.

They can be used when:

- An offender has committed serious offences, including sexual or violent offences and controlling or coercive behaviour;
- The victims are eligible for the Victim Contact Scheme (VCS); and
- No other licence conditions are appropriate.

Sometimes an exclusion zone may be more appropriate.

You can speak to your Victim Liaison Officer about measures that may help keep you safe.

Your views will be shared with the person making the decision about licence conditions.



What happens if an offender breaks a restriction zone?

An offender breaks a restriction zone when they leave the area they must stay in. This means they have broken the rules on their licence.



Probation will assess the circumstances and determine the action. The breach will be taken seriously.

Probation can ask for the offender to be returned to prison. This is called a recall to prison. The offender will only be returned to prison if what happens is serious enough.

Probation will decide whether people can still be kept safe.

Sometimes probation may take other action instead. For example, they may give a warning or apply extra licence conditions. The response is not always immediate.

Your VLO will update you. You can contact them if you have any questions or concerns.

If you feel in immediate danger or fear for your safety, call the police on 999.

How long does a restriction zone apply for?

Your Victim Liaison Officer will write to you each year to tell you if the restriction zone is still in place.

A restriction zone does not usually stay in place for the whole time an offender is on licence. This is because it is one of the strictest rules an offender can have.

Probation will assess whether the restriction zone is still needed. They will tell you if they are thinking about removing the restriction zone.



Before any decision is made:

- Your Victim Liaison Officer will contact you
- You will have time to share your views
- You can talk about other licence conditions, such as an exclusion zone

Probation must consider your views before removing the restriction zone.

How can you access more information?

If you have questions about restriction zones, speak to your Victim Liaison Officer. Your Victim Liaison Officer will be happy to:

- Explain what a restriction zone is
- Answer your questions
- Explain how decisions are made
- Tell you about support services

Support for victims

We understand that you may have concerns about an offender's release. You do not have to manage these concerns on your own.

If you need support or would like to talk to someone, your Victim Liaison Officer can speak to you and help you find local services.

You can also contact national support services:

- **Victim Support – Offender Release Helpline:** 0808 168 9280
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 200 0247
- **National Stalking Helpline:** 0808 802 0300
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line:** 0808 500 2222
- **Live Fear Free Helpline (Wales):** 0808 80 10 800



