

1. Under the provisions of the freedom of information act, I would like to know if the blocking / obstruction of vehicles, on a highway / road, classed as a protest, is illegal or legal?

The right to peacefully protest is protected by law. However, this is not an absolute right, and the behaviour of protestors may give rise to a number of criminal offences.

Each case is based on its own merits and the facts of the situation. There are a number of potential offences that may be committed, such as obstruction of the highway. The surrounding facts of the situation would determine if it would be illegal and furthermore whether a person would be arrested and charged.

Further information can be found at the link below.

[Offences during Protests, Demonstrations or Campaigns | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/offences-during-protests-demonstrations-or-campaigns)

2. What legislation does 1 come under?

Highways Act 1980

Highway Act 1835

Public Order Act 1986

Road Traffic Act 1988

Road Traffic Act 1960

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Public Order Act 2023

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Common Law

Further information can be found at the link below.

[Protests - Potential offences during protests, demonstrations, or campaigns - Annex A | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/protests-potential-offences-during-protests-demonstrations-or-campaigns-annex-a)

3. Can the police show any discretion or do they have to follow the legislation / law?

Officers are able to show discretion and aim to facilitate peaceful protests as well as keeping the King's peace.