

How to not make joinder with Police

The following is a basic script to help you with questions the police might ask you and answers in situations where they try to make joinder with you. It is important to note, we never really know exactly what they will say, so there is an element of thinking on your feet. This is a great place to start and for you to practice with.

POLICE: we've been directed to disperse the crowds now, so we are asking everyone to leave. Are you leaving?

Public: Is there a lawful obligation on me to answer your questions?

OR

Am I obliged to answer your questions?

POLICE: if you're not answering my questions then I'm assuming that you're leaving so are you leaving?

Public: Is there a lawful obligation on me to answer your questions?

OR

Am I obliged to answer your questions?

POLICE: right so if you're not going to leave, I'm going to have to issue you with a fine. It's your choice. You're going to get a fine if you don't leave. What are you going to do?

Public: Is there a lawful obligation on me to answer your questions?

OR

Am I obliged to answer your questions?

POLICE: You don't seem to understand what I'm saying. All I'm asking is for you to leave. Do you understand?

Public: Is there a lawful obligation on me to understand?

POLICE: If you're not going to leave then you're breaking the law and I can fine you.

Public: What law have I broken?

POLICE: The Coronavirus Act 2020 clearly states that people must not gather in groups of more than 2 and there are clearly more than 2 people in this gathering.

Public: The Coronavirus Act is not actually law. As you stated it is an Act and an Act only has the force of law if I consent to it and I do not give consent to it. Therefore, I have not broken any law and you have no authority to issue me with a fine for a crime I haven't committed

POLICE: I don't know what you're talking about. There is no difference between an act and a law. You have broken the law, which is why we've been given the directive to fine or arrest people.

Public: An act is only law with the consent of the governed. I do not consent so I repeat that I have not broken any law.

POLICE: I don't know about that. As far as I'm concerned, you've broken the law and I'm here to uphold the law. So, either leave or I'm fining you. What's your name?

Public: if I've broken the law then what is my crime? And for a crime there has to be a victim. Show me the victim.

POLICE: The crime is breaking the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the victims could be the hundreds of people who could be infected by this virus.

Public: So, there are no victims you can show me? So how can you accuse me of a crime when there are no victims?

POLICE: If you are refusing to leave and refusing to give me your details. I'm warning you that I'll be arresting you.

Public: I'm warning you that I'm putting you on notice and holding you personally accountable in a court of law. So please state clearly your full name and your badge number

POLICE: full name and badge number. I can handle going to court if you want to do that.

Public: Let me be clear, you will not have the protection of the police force behind you. You will be on your own being charged in your personal capacity. You will not be represented by the Police Federation. You will have to represent yourself and fork out money for a solicitor from your own pocket. You will be liable for all court costs and any fines you're issued with. And you could lose your job or even end up in prison for breaking actual laws rather than Acts. So please desist from harassing me unlawfully.

At this point, calmly and confidently turn around and walk away.

Other questions Public can ask at this point are:

Am I being detained? Or am I free to go?