

July 2009

## SPORT SPECTATOR CONTROLS – EASY READ CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



### [The Northern Ireland Office \(NIO\)](#)

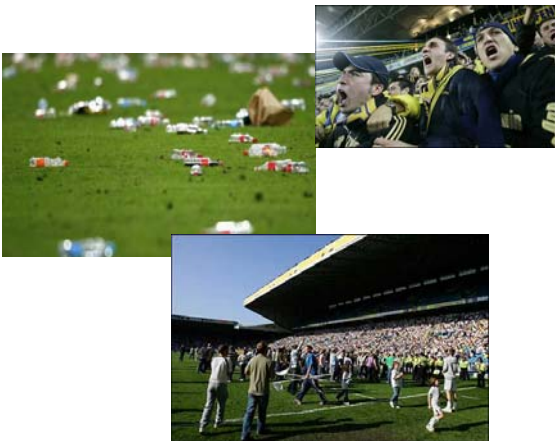
The NIO is the government body in Northern Ireland which looks after things to do with law and order. The NIO has been working with another department of Government, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) whose responsibilities include things to do with the arts and sport.

The Government would like to make sports grounds a safer and more welcoming place and is thinking of introducing some new laws. This document looks at similar laws in England and Wales and explains what we are planning in Northern Ireland. One major difference is that we think some of the laws which only apply to football in England and Wales should also cover Rugby and Gaelic in Northern Ireland.

This document seeks the views of everyone on what we have in mind. The closing date for views is 30 November 2009.

NIO and DCAL wish to promote safety and comfort at sports ground and part of this involves stopping the bad behaviour of spectators.

For major Rugby, Football and Gaelic matches:



### Chanting, Throwing Objects and Pitch Invasion

We plan to make it against the law to sing rude or hateful songs, throw objects or invade the pitch.

If a person is caught doing any of these things they could be fined up to £1000.

### Alcohol and Flares

We plan to make it against the law to drink alcohol at sporting events or on transport to matches or to carry flares or anything into a sports ground that could be used to hurt someone.



If a person is caught doing any of these

things they could be fined up to £2500 or put into prison for up to 3 months.

For Football Matches Only:



### [Ticket Touting](#)

We plan to make it against the law to tout tickets, i.e. to sell of tickets from person to person. This is to prevent fans from different sides being placed together in a football ground. The maximum fine for this is £5000.

### [Football Banning Orders](#)

When a person has been badly behaved the court may give them a football banning order, and they will not be allowed to go to football matches. The court will tell the person what matches they are not allowed to go to and for how long they are banned. This could be up to ten years.



**If a person is caught at a football match they should not have been at, they could be fined up to £5000 or sent to prison for as long as 6 months.**

## **Equality**

**All government policies should aim to promote equality of opportunity between people of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation. We also aim to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally, people with a disability and people without one, and people with dependants or without dependants.**

**If you believe that any of the policies in this public consultation document will have an unfair impact on any of the groups of people we have named above please let us know.**

## **Full Consultation Document**

**A full copy of the consultation document is available on the NIO website:**



<http://www.nio.gov.uk>

## How you can have your say?

Your views are important to us. We are asking everyone in Northern Ireland what they think of our plans.

So please write to us before 30 November 2009 if you have any comments:



**Criminal Law Branch  
Northern Ireland Office  
Massey House  
Stoney Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SX**

**If you need to speak with someone please phone:**

**NIO on 028 9052 7522**



**Send an email to:**

**[cjd.public@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cjd.public@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk)**