



DEMONSTRATION WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON 1ST/2ND APRIL EMERGENCY ADVICE UPDATE

- The G20 Summit is being held in Docklands on 2nd April. A number of groups are planning a series of protest marches and events to coincide with the event (31st March – 3rd April). In particular a major demonstration is planned for 1st April.
- Whilst the majority of the protesters are working with the police and aiming for a peaceful and lawful protest, police intelligence suggests a number of anarchist groups are planning to attend – namely the Wombles who are responsible for previous violent disturbances at protests. Their aim is vandalism and violent protest.
- Judging by demonstrations of a similar nature held in previous years, the impact of the protests is likely to be felt outside the main hotspots of the City and Docklands. It is advisable, therefore, for all operators with outlets within central London to put in place contingency plans and brief their staff accordingly.
- This note summarises the main planned events as known and includes advice from the police and previous operational experiences on how to minimise the potential impact on your business.

Planned Events

- There is a planned climate camp out around Bank from the evening of 31st March to 3rd April. This means that whilst protest activity is centred on 1st and 2nd April, the effects will be felt over a wider period.
- The main day of protest will be **1st April** – dubbed “Financial Fools Day/G20 meltdown”. Protests will begin at **11am** at 4 main locations across the City – all with a different theme:
 - Moorgate: demonstration against war
 - Liverpool St: demonstration against climate change
 - London Bridge: demonstration against financial institutions
 - Cannon St: demonstration against home repossessions
- The marchers will all **converge at Bank junction at 12 noon** to protest outside the Bank of England. The protest will take the form of a **street party**, with music and alcohol. It is not known how far out from the junction this will spread – this will depend on numbers. At present, police estimate 2,000 demonstrators
- On **2nd April**, there will be a protest in **Paternoster Square at 7am** and a **9am** march from **Camberwell to the Excel centre, via Bank junction**.

Implications for operators

- The main impact of events will be felt by operators in and around Bank junction and along the route of any of the planned marches. However, after the main protest is over on 1st April, drunken demonstrators will disperse throughout central London and the effects could be felt more widely.



- Moreover, police intelligence suggests that demonstrators will break away from the main street party on 1st April and Flash Mobs will be used to protest and cause disruption across central London. Do not assume that you will be unaffected simply because you are not in the immediate vicinity of the protest.
- Sit ins and building incursions are likely to be a feature. Whilst this will focus on financial institutions, the police cannot exclude the possibility that any building or business will be targeted.

What to do to protect your business

- Although the licensed trade is not seen as a target for these demonstrations, there is a lot that can be done to minimise any potential threats of violence or damage which may arise as a result of the protests.
- Businesses along the route of the marches or in the vicinity of the protests should:
 - **Closure:** if you are in the immediate path of the protest, you may wish to consider opening later or closing altogether. You may want to talk to your local police for advice.
 - **Remove all outside furniture:** not just tables & chairs but awnings, A boards, chain fencing etc to reduce the likelihood of property being used as a missile for violence or for looting purposes
 - **Remove window displays:** even dummy bottles can encourage looting and may be viewed as potential weapons
 - **Remove rubbish:** make sure no rubbish is left on the street and if you do have a street bin, leave it empty.
 - **Cancel or limit deliveries:** to keep the streets as clear as possible
 - **CCTV:** check it and make sure it is working
- In addition, you need to brief your managers and staff to make sure that you have a plan in place should trouble arise on the day. We would advise the following:
 - If you are the start of a route march, consider opening later
 - Make sure essential staff are in work early – possibly before 10am to avoid them getting caught up in the march itself
 - If you are likely to be in the direct firing line, make sure an experienced manager is running the day and evening of 1st/2nd April – and that they are empowered to take a decision to close the premises at any time
 - Plan breaks to ensure that there is a senior manager on the floor at all times
 - Consider manning the door during the day
 - Make sure all staff are briefed on any emergency plans eg if you need to lock in or close the outlet, how to manage customers, banning protestors from the site or from being served
 - England are playing 1st April – you may want to remove any promotional material from sites in the City in advance of the match and take a view on whether to screen the match depending on what happens during the day

The police will be offering e-mail updates through the emergency system on the day. To register go to www.vocal.uk.com