

No Comment? No funds!

You may have noticed on our stall at the Anarchist Bookfair that there are few, if any, copies of *No Comment- The Defendant's Guide to Arrest*. We have run out and we need to do a reprint (with some minor alterations). Traditionally we have paid for *No Comment* with donations from people who have sued the cops. This is a tradition we would like to continue. So if you are due a payout, please donate some of it to LDMG!

Police bail

Police bail is granted to people prior to being charged because the cops don't have enough (or any) evidence to charge people with. It is therefore in their interest to use and abuse police bail, not ours.

There is no limit on the time that a person can be on police bail, although the conservative Law Society has recommended an upper limit of 28 days (their report includes examples of people on police bail for more than a year).

Breaching Police Bail Conditions is not a criminal offence!

What many people don't know is that breaking police bail conditions (prior to being charged) is not the same as failing to surrender to bail (turning up on the date given on your bail sheet whether to a court or to return to a police station).

Failure to surrender is a crime (Section 6 Bail Act 1976). Although it should be said, the courts take failure to surrender to the cops far less seriously than skipping court and CPS guidelines state that failure to answer police bail should not be prosecuted at all where the substantive case is dropped.

Breaking conditions imposed when you are given bail is not a crime. If you break bail conditions you can be arrested (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 section 46A (1A)). BUT and here's the good bit, they can only release you on bail again with the same conditions or charge you, and then either bail you or take you to Court the next day. Now some people may be afraid that the Court will remand them. BUT the Courts can only remand



people who've been charged with an offence (and the offence itself is an imprisonable one). And that is what the cops don't want to do, because if you're charged you have to be told what you're suspected of doing and what the evidence is against you. This will help your defence by enabling you to gather information and witnesses to the incident and demand disclosure of the police's own misconduct. We suspect that the cops are not planning to arrest anyone for breaching bail just hoping to put people off demonstrating. In any case it's almost unheard of for people to be remanded just for breaking police bail conditions.

Street Bail

Street bail is where you are given bail without being taken to the police station but are given a written condition to attend a police station at a later date.

Conditions can be set as part of street bail in the same way as pre charge police station bail but you cannot be required to give or pledge money (a security or surety) as a condition of your release.

It is NOT an offence to fail to answer street bail. You can be arrested if you don't attend the police station. This is just like a first arrest for the offence.

Name and Address

You do not have to give your name and address when arrested. It can be an offence of obstructing a constable in the course of their duty to give a false name or address. Not giving names and address until charge may help to prevent the cops' data gathering.

Financial Support

LDMG is currently supporting over 300 people on police bail. We organised at short notice a meeting attended by over 100 defendants. Many of those arrested are not from London and need help with fares to get back here. To support them LDMG urgently needs funds. Please make a donation at our stall or meeting or send us a cheque. Thanks.

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