



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Restriction Zones

Helping to keep victims safe

EASY READ

My Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) is:

Name: _____

Contact number: _____



What is a restriction zone?

A restriction zone means the offender must stay in a set area.

They are used to help protect victims and the public.

Restriction zones are not suitable for every case.

Most restriction zones are monitored with an electronic tag.

A restriction zone is different from an exclusion zone.

An exclusion zone stops an offender going into a set area.



When can a restriction zone be used?

A restriction zone is one of the strictest licence conditions an offender can be given.

Licence conditions are rules an offender must follow after they leave prison.

Restriction zones are only used when other rules are not enough to keep people safe.

Sometimes an exclusion zone may be a better option.

You can ask for a restriction zone to be considered.

Your Victim Liaison Officer can explain the process and discuss this with you.

The final decision is made by the prison governor or the Parole Board.

Your views will be shared with the person making the decision.



What happens if an offender breaks a restriction zone?

An offender breaks a restriction zone when they leave the area they must stay in.

This means they have broken the rules on their licence.

Probation can ask for the offender to be returned to prison.

This is called a recall to prison.

The offender will only be returned to prison if what happens is serious enough.

Probation will decide whether people can still be kept safe.

Sometimes probation may take other action instead.

For example, they may give a warning or apply extra licence conditions.



How long does a restriction zone apply for?

A restriction zone does not usually stay in place for the whole time an offender is on licence.

This is because it is one of the strictest rules an offender can have.

You will be told if probation is thinking about removing it.

Your Victim Liaison Officer will keep you updated.

If the restriction zone is no longer needed, it may be changed to an exclusion zone.



Where can you get more information?

If you have questions about restriction zones, speak to your Victim Liaison Officer.

Your Victim Liaison Officer will be happy to:

- Explain what a restriction zone is
- Answer your questions
- Explain how decisions are made
- Tell you about support services



Your views will be shared with the people making decisions about licence conditions.

Support for victims

We understand that you may have concerns about an offender's release.

You do not have to deal with these concerns on your own.

If you need support or would like to talk to someone, your Victim Liaison Officer can speak to you and help you find local services.

You can also contact national support services:

- **Victim Support:** 0808 16 89 111
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 200 0247
- **Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line:** 0808 500 2222
- **National Stalking Helpline:** 0808 802 0300
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000

