



## 3. Will we be Arrested?

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**You cannot completely prevent arrest, but you can take steps to protect yourselves if it does happen.**

Many people contact us wanting to know whether the action they are planning is likely to lead to arrests. This question is difficult to answer: a knowledge of common [laws used at protests](#) can be helpful, but is not a definite guide, as the police frequently arrest first and then decide the charges later. Reassuringly, the risk of arrest at most of the actions we support is low – [get in touch](#) with us if you want to discuss a possible action. Distributing our [key advice](#) may help participants feel more confident.

You will often get some warning before arrests occur: either direct warnings, or a change in the police atmosphere. How your group responds to this will depend on the risks you are prepared to take: it may be helpful to discuss this in advance.

It is really helpful to **plan in advance how your group could help with [police station support](#)** if needed. A few people available to meet arrestees at stations makes a huge difference. See our guide on [preparing for police station support in advance](#) for more information.

For some actions – e.g. affinity group actions – arrest may be expected. If this is the case, you should be aware of [what is likely to happen in custody](#). Make plans for [police station support](#), including noting preferred solicitors for each participant.