

REQUEST	16805	RESPONSE
	<p>1. Please could you tell me how many instances of public footpaths (not pavements along roadsides) have been reported as obstructed to Wigan MBC in the past 2 years?</p> <p>2. Could you also tell me how they were resolved and how many led to prosecution of the landowner?</p> <p>I'm intrigued to know how many landowners are restricting rightful access to PROW and how the council is protecting residents right to the countryside.</p>	<p>1. We do not hold this data. Specific lists of obstructions are not kept, as they can relate to various causes, obstructed due to vegetation, fallen trees, barrier in disrepair, barrier locked, fenced off, flooded, collapsed bank, etc.</p> <p>2. The majority of obstructions are resolved through, maintenance, removal of obstruction, contacting the landowner and explaining the situation, and as appropriate requesting removal, repair of barrier. Some issues require expertise from colleagues how to resolve and / or make safe an issue.</p> <p>On some occasions the intervention of colleagues in Legal Services are called upon to assist.</p> <p>In the last two years there has been one unsuccessful prosecution.</p>