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The House of Lords considered the government's draconian public order Bill last night and [according to the Guardian](#) inflicted a series of defeats on the government. These included moves to stop:

- * a measure to let police exercise stop and search without suspicion to tackle disruptive demonstrations.
- * the use of protest banning orders
- * sanction being imposed against people who had not been convicted of any offence
- * a ban on slow marching.

This is all very welcome and shows that there is some sense in some parts of the UK legislature, albeit that it is uncomfortable that it is in the unelected art of it.

Unfortunately, the moves do not necessarily mean that the Bill is defeated. The Bill will return to the Commons who will no doubt reinstate these provisions. But as this was not a manifesto issue the Lords can continue to object, and I suspect that they will.

It is welcome that the Lords are fighting this cause. It is grim that our human rights depend upon them and the absurd process of parliamentary ping-pong which will now ensue. We deserve better than this.