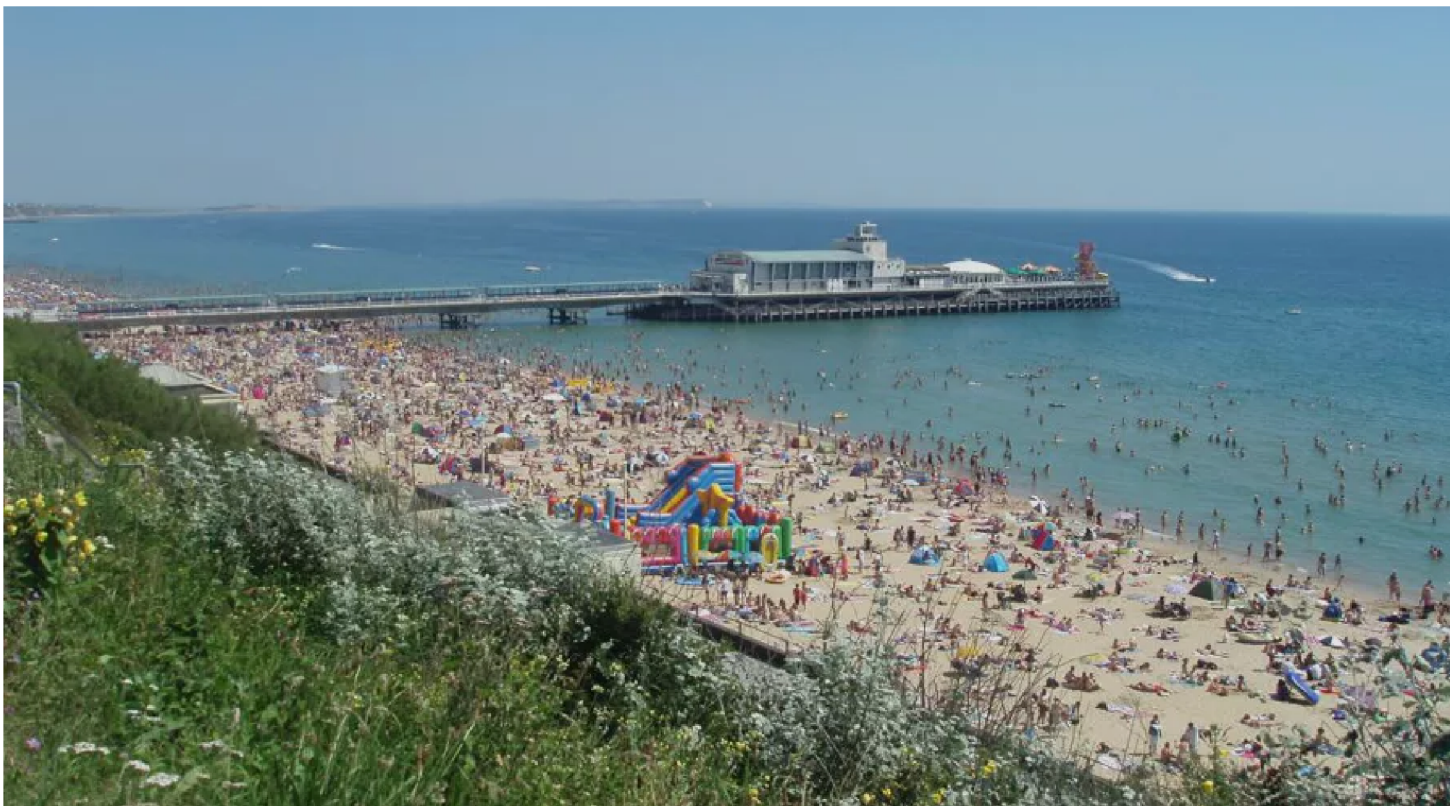


Appeal for calm after 'frightening abuse' on Bournemouth beach



Workers subjected to verbal and threats of physical violence as hordes flocked to the sands

GMB has called for calm ahead of the weekend after members suffered 'frightening levels of abuse' as half a million people flocked to Bournemouth beach this week.

Members employed by Bournemouth Poole Christchurch Council (BPC) say they have been subjected to verbal and threats of physical violence as hordes flocked to the sands.

BPC called an emergency response to deal with the excessive alcohol consumption, fighting, cars parked blocking emergency access and the lighting of fires.



More than 550 parking control notifications were issued around the area which has become gridlocked with visitors, as well as over 40 tons of rubbish needing to be removed from the beaches.

One council worker, who wished to remain anonymous, said:

“While we are trying to go about our job, the levels of abuse are frightening.

“Be it clearing rubbish or asking people not to light barbecues, we are seeing abuse and confrontation like never before and we simply want the public to consider the impact of their actions not only for themselves, but also for the wider community.”

Adrian Baker, GMB Regional Organiser said:

“GMB are calling for calm ahead of the weekend when we anticipate more and more visitors coming to the Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch area.

“While people are obviously looking to enjoy the hot weather, our members should not have to put up with these kind of attacks – not to mention that we want them to be able to remain safe doing their jobs.

We ask for members of the public to respect social distancing at all times according to the government advice and help our members and their families to stay safe and protected.”

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Member requiring help?

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