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Teenager challenges curfews law

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A teenager is to challenge Government policy over night time curfews on youngsters aged under 16.

Lawyers for the 14-year-old boy will argue that powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act are too restrictive and breach his human rights.

The law allows police and councils to impose night-time curfews and any unsupervised child in a designated area after 9pm can be escorted home by police - even if they have done nothing wrong.

The teenager, from Richmond upon Thames, south-west London, has been granted legal aid to take his case to the High Court and hopes to bring judicial review proceedings, backed by civil rights group Liberty.

The group says a curfew around the town centre and riverbank in his home town prevents him from enjoying social activities such as evening visits to the cinema.

It argues that the law infringes the boy's right to respect for a private life and to associate with others, and that the measures discriminate against all young people under 16.

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