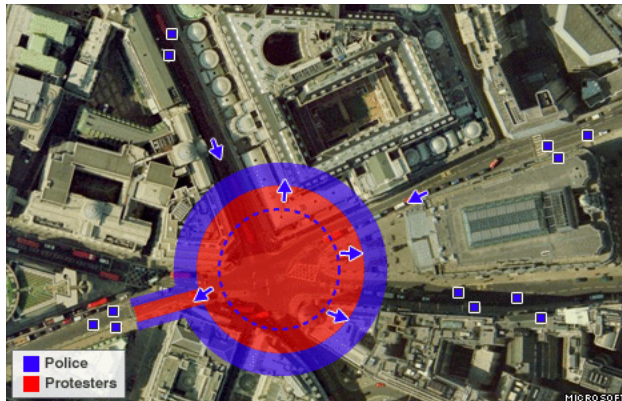




Could the "Kettling" tactic be used in the Olympics?



"Kettling", a tactic usually used by the Met police as a means of riot control but its use has been questioned by European law courts. "Kettling" has been used since 2001 and could prove useful in the upcoming 2012 London Olympics. It involves blocking off an area with rioters in it and keeping them there with only one exit chosen by the police. This could prove useful if a fight should break out in the crowds.

It was first used by police when they blocked off Oxford Circus and held rioters in the area for seven hours. It has been argued by some experts that "Kettling" is actually counter productive and encourages fights.

Recently a group went to court claiming "Kettling" to be a violation of the European convention of human rights. They had nothing to do with the riots in 2001 but were supported by Lois Austin, who was involved in the riots and was "kettled" herself.

Austin claimed that she was "deprived" of her "liberty". But the court said "the police had imposed the cordon to isolate and contain a large crowd in dangerous and volatile conditions." This event has made use of "Kettling" a controversial tactic. So should it be used in the Olympics? This means that "Kettling" is still a lawful tactic to use in crowd control. The Met police may have to rethink their tactics in the face of the Olympic Games. This is good news for some people at the Olympics but a few members of the public will be disappointed.

