

From: IS <iman@lordshiva.net>
Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 at 19:29
To: <Andrew.Holt@met.police.uk>
Cc: <steven.bramley@met.police.uk>, Russell Gray <russell@lordshiva.net>
Subject: Re: Shiva Ltd 163678

Mr Holt,

At this stage our letter to The Commissioner was not, and neither did it indicate that it was, a formal letter before action. This is not to say that civil action against the police will not be considered in due course. However, of far more immediate importance is that we have the assurance we have sought that there will be no repetition of the abuse of police powers that we suggest occurred on 30 August. This is necessary and urgent to prevent escalation of the losses we have been subjected to.

Thank you for directing us to the restrictions relating to gatherings exceeding 30 people under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020. However, it should have been perfectly obvious that directing us to that legislation was of no assistance since our letter of 4 September to the Commissioner specifically directed her to it. It was further made entirely clear in our letter that the issue that the Commissioner is required to address is how the circumstances of the raid on our premises was justified by that statute, contrary to the ordinary meaning of its words and in view of the fact that the officers themselves had no idea what they were doing, other than throwing their weight around.

It is not clear from your letter whether on behalf of the Commissioner you accept that the police officers behaviour was in excess of their lawful powers or whether you deny as much. Instead you appear to have written with no purpose other than to avoid the issue. If the commissioner herself does not know the meaning of the legislation the police have no business attempting to enforce it before she has turned to the author(s) to obtain clarification. Clearly this is the Government.

In the circumstances we assume that the Commissioner will not authorise any repetition of the intrusion and intervention at our premises by police officers under her control that we experienced on 30 August, without first responding to our invitation to explain her interpretation of a piece of legislation which, on its face, clearly confers no such powers.

Regards,
Iman

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