

DEMONSTRATING RESPECT FOR RIGHTS?



THE POLICING OF THE CLIMATE CAMP IN THE CITY ON 1 APRIL 2009

**A REPORT BY THE CLIMATE CAMP LEGAL TEAMⁱ
18 APRIL 2009**

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Report Summary

This report looks at the policing of the Camp for Climate Action's Camp in the City in the context of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights report on the policing of protest called 'Demonstrating respect for rights? A human rights approach to protest', published on 23 March 2009, just over a week before the G20 protests on 1 April 2009ⁱⁱ.

Under the banner of '*Stop carbon markets because nature doesn't do bail outs*' the Climate Camp set up its fourth camp outside the European Carbon Exchange in Bishopsgate to highlight the failings of that carbon trading market in the lead up to the G20 meetingⁱⁱⁱ. As usual the camp had an enjoyable festival atmosphere^{iv}, but the policing was violent and disproportionate, exhibiting the type of policing the Climate Camp has experienced before.

What was different this time is that just down the road, near the Bank of England and other G20 protests, someone died. The scenes we have seen leading up to Ian Tomlinson's death, and more recently with the female protestor being struck with a baton, are not unusual in the context of protests.

In the mind of the police there always seems to be a violent minority present to justify the kettling^v of everyone for hours with brutal indifference, and the use of excessive force by police officers.

At the Climate Camp it was calm throughout the day^{vi}, and the policing relatively relaxed until, just after 7pm, the police streamed into the Camp by force with their batons and shields in full offensive use. People held their hands in the air, chanting '*this is not a riot*', many were assaulted^{vii}. People were kettled and remained so for nearly five hours.

Climate Camp Police Liaison volunteers reported Silver Commander had decided to contain the Camp because it had '*kicked off at Moorgate*' so people at the Camp would be contained for two hours and then released in groups of twenty or so. No public announcement was made.

At 21.06, a Legal Observer at the South end of Bishopsgate reported hearing that a 'section 60 dispersal' would take place. At 21.47, Police Liaison were informed that a section 14 order had been imposed, the Camp had gone on for long enough, the Camp was over, people would be let out in twos at the North end as police vehicles up are brought up from the South end to push them out. No public announcement was made.

People gathered outside the Camp at the North end of Bishopsgate were forcibly moved with baton charges and police dogs.

Campers, many of whom by then wished to leave, and those people who had simply been passing through when the kettle was imposed, were finally released at approximately 23.59, nearly five hours later. It is exceedingly hard to understand the legal justification for the kettle^{viii}.

Finally, at just before 00.51, the police cleared the road of remaining Campers in a final unrelenting push to clear the obstruction to the highway, indifferent to the safety of those present^{ix}. The Camp was reported completely cleared at 01.00.

The inbox of the Climate Camp Legal Team is now overflowing with accounts of unprovoked assaults and injuries by police officers. Appendix 3 contains a small selection of these personal accounts.

Main points

1. The policing of protest as a whole is not accountable

Time after time we see the same scenes at protests, but there seems to be no effective mechanism to hold the police as a whole accountable for their actions and so that effective consideration can be given in a timely manner to whether the policing was appropriate, proportionate and lawful. Whilst there is the means to challenge the actions of individual officers, it is rarely effective.

2. Legal recourse for protesters is limited

There are significant practical barriers on funding such claims and limitations inherent from the nature of the legal process, and the judicial review process in particular. The Joint Parliamentary Committee acknowledged *'Legal action where officers are in breach of their human rights obligations, whilst important, is not an appropriate to deal with systemic problems nor a good basis from which to learn lessons for the future. It is also damaging to future relations between protestors and the police and does not allow protestors the swift response that may sometimes be required if they are to achieve their aim of a timely and persuasive demonstration.'* The Committee recommended, having placed an emphasis on effective mutual dialogue and a no surprises approach, *'a quick and cost free system for resolving complaints and disputes in advance of protests taking place.'*^x

3. The police complaints system and the Independent Police Complaints Commission are ineffective

As John Crawley, a former IPCC Commissioner has recently commented^{xi} *'The question 'Do you have to be dead before the IPCC takes an interests in your case?', is too near the truth'*. In 2007/08 he reports there were 100 IPCC investigations (the majority of these investigations were because a death was involved), and 150 police investigations 'managed by' the IPCC, out of 29,000 complaints. The IPCC considered 2,260 appeals against police investigations of complaints and upheld less than 20%. Disturbingly, only 1% of serious assault allegations were substantiated. As a result of complaints, 15 officers lost their jobs, one was demoted and 24 were fined a few days' pay. After proposing four key reforms^{xii} for the IPCC, he concluded *'The press is littered with public concern about current policing tactics, including the way that demonstrations are handled. These issues particularly affect younger people, and we risk yet another disaffected generation, How the IPCC addressees what may be increasing policing controversies associated with protest movements will be a critical test of whether it is worth preserving or is a failed model'*. With this we can only concur and these issues are critical, as we can expect environmental protest to increase with the failure of government to effectively engage with the serious issues we face with climate change. In addition, we have significant concerns that in reality we have a national police force overseen not by parliament but by an unaccountable private company – The Association of Chief Police Officers^{xiii}.

4. Protesters are being treated as criminals

Exercise your right to protest in this country and you will at best be treated as a potential criminal, and at worst as a potential terrorist, and policed as such. You will be photographed and filmed by Forward Intelligence Teams (whose mission is 'mutual recognition': you know, we know who you are, and that we are watching you). You will be stopped and searched and pressured into giving your name and address^{xiv}. You will be corralled by police in riot gear, your movement of movement restricted, and in physical danger from officers' 'losing it' and the use of disproportionate use of force to restrict protest.

5. Police spin is overstepping the mark

The police briefings start before the protest making it hard for the protestors to be heard on the issues they actually want to protest about. Once again, in the lead up to the Climate Camp and the G20 protests, there was increasing concern that the police were talking up the potential for violence in their

press briefings. Justly, there are significant concerns about the motivation for such activity and its appropriateness. Interestingly, at the Climate Camp the satellite TV vans were moved on before the significant escalation in police violence occurred^{xv}. The next day embedded TV camera crew entered with riot police during police raids of two places where G20 protesters had been sleeping (many because they had not been allowed to leave the Climate Camp until after the Underground closed). The police reports on Ian Tomlinson's death are typical of the disingenuousness of police briefings. Police media spin is not compatible with any reasonable notion of institutional accountability in a democracy.

6. Climate activists are being demonised

There are worrying signs the police are turning their attention to climate change activists, and Climate Camp in particular, and identifying them as the next generation of domestic extremists (for which the legal translation seems to be 'terrorists'^{xvi}). For instance, the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit (NECTU) which according to its website '*promotes a coordinated response to domestic extremism by providing tactical advice to the police service, and information and guidance to industry and government*' briefed Observer journalists for an article^{xvii} on eco-terrorism that was so unsubstantiated and scurrilous (suggesting both arson and mass murder) that it was subsequently withdrawn and an apology issued.^{xviii} We are extremely concerned at the increasing conflation of protest with criminality and the affect this has police strategy and behaviour.

Recommendations and Reality

Comparing the policing of Climate Camp in the City with the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights Report

The Joint Parliamentary made excellent and clear recommendations on the policing of protest: what follows are relevant extracts from their report in bold with our comments, in the context of the policing of the Climate Camp, below.

A. The Right to Protest

‘Whilst protests may be disruptive or inconvenient, the presumption should be in favour of protests taking place without state interference, unless compelling evidence can be provided of legitimate reasons for any restrictions and those restrictions go no further than is strictly necessary to achieve their aim.’^{xxix}

‘We have heard no good argument in favour of introducing an arbitrary limit on the duration of protesters around Parliament.’^{xxx} ‘Conditions might include requiring protestors to keep clear of the vehicular access points, to permit access to Parliament and to ensure public safety around the gates.’^{xxxi}

‘Human rights law makes clear that the balance should always fall in favour of those seeking to assert their right to protest, unless there is strong evidence for interfering with their right. Inconvenience or disruption alone are not sufficient reasons for preventing a protest from taking place, although they may be good reasons to reroute it or place other conditions on it. Given the value of the right to protest, a certain amount of inconvenience or disruption needs to be tolerated.’^{xxxi}

‘It [the limitations of legal action] is also damaging to future relations between protestors and the police and does not allow protestors the swift response that may sometimes be required, if they are to achieve their aim of a timely and persuasive demonstration.’^{xxxi}

The Camp for Climate Action planned a 24 hour camp outside the European Carbon Exchange. It had a challenging and complex message to convey about the failure of carbon trading that would easily be lost amongst stories about the G20 Meltdown demonstration at the Bank of England and the usual problem of the story becoming all about the policing.

For this reason, the 24 hour nature of the Camp was seen as important as it might have supported coverage that was specific to the Camp. However, the police took the view that keeping that section of Bishopsgate open to vehicular traffic was more important and imposed a section 14 condition^{xxiv} to bring it to an end.

Significantly, an end time or duration was not communicated at the meeting with representatives of the Camp’s Legal Team on 30 March 2008. A section 14 announcement was not made to those present at the Camp. There are reports of an unintelligible announcement towards the very end of the Camp at the South end of Bishopsgate, made after the clearance of the Camp had already started. Protestors report quickly responding, saying they could not make out what had been said and repeatedly asking, without success, for details.

Police Liaison had been informed that a section 14 condition had brought the Camp to an end but their focus was on addressing the worrying news that people would be let out in twos (see below for further comment) and there was no further liaison from the police.

No attempt was made to facilitate alternative solutions.

The Joint Parliamentary Committees conclusions about protests outside Parliament and more generally (included above) suggest that an arbitrary limit was not appropriate and more could have been done to facilitate the protest and balance meeting the needs of everyone involved.

A non-hierarchical approach involving consensus decision-making, such as that used at the Climate Camp, is not unusual. In the absence of identifiable organisers with decision-making authority, the police seem unable or unwilling to find different ways to engage constructively with protestors which is unfortunate as it is hard without this for peaceful protest to be facilitated. The personal accounts (Appendix 3) refer to police officers destroying the sound system, which was being used to facilitate a staged withdrawal by Campers, preceding the swift and violent final dispersal.

B. Use of Counter-Terrorism Powers

‘We are concerned by the reports we have received of police using counter-terrorism powers on peaceful protestors. We welcome the Minister’s comments that counter-terrorism legislation should not be used to deal with public order or protests... We recommend that the new guidance on the use of section 44 stop and search power be amended to make clear that counter-terrorism powers should not be used against peaceful protestors.’^{xxv}

Similar reassurances were given by Commander Broadhurst during the meeting on 30 March 2009 with the Climate Camp’s Legal Team. However, it turned out the evening before s44 had been used to search a number of protestors who whilst having a later supper at an Indian café had been discussing the logistics of the food supplies for the Camp.

Whilst we agree that the reporting of s76 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 has been misleading, it nonetheless has a chilling effect. Certainly, we have had to give briefings and respond to the concerns of protestors about it. We have also had worrying reports about the police treatment of those filming – some accounts are included in Appendix 3.

C. Dialogue with Protestors

‘Greater consistency of practice across police forces is, in our view, essential and could be achieved if debriefing after protests, to ensure that lessons are learnt, routinely deals with human rights issues. This would be enhanced by agreeing to engage the organizers of protests as part of that debriefing.’

No approach has been received.

‘We recommend that police forces review how they foster effective dialogue with protestors...The police should take proactive steps to ensure that dialogue is encourage, but that it is made clear that

***such dialogue is voluntary. In this spirit, protestors should also, where possible, engage with the police at an early stage in their planning, in order to facilitate peaceful protests.*^{xxvi}**

The Camp for Climate Action planned a public assembly and as such no advance notification was legally required. The cumulative lack of trust built up from previous Camps has inevitably reduced the willingness of many to engage in dialogue with the police and the non-hierarchical, consensus decision-making approach means that dialogue needs to occur with Campers during the Camp itself. However, the Legal Team did try to establish contact with the police and struggled to get effective engagement until we went public with our attempts out of frustration with police comments in the media that there was a lack of a willingness to liaise on the part of the protestors^{xxvii}. A meeting then occurred with Commander Broadhurst on 30 March 2009.

The Camp is organised through open meetings, plans were publicised well in advance, and all but confirmation of the ultimate location were in the public domain and available to the police. There were ‘no surprises’ from the Climate Camp.

Campers’ decision-making about departure was hampered by warnings from the police that people would be allowed to leave in groups of twenty, and later in twos, and that there would be a ‘section 60 dispersal’ [sic]. Many campers were concerned about the recent Gaza demonstration, where protestors were only permitted to leave the kettle if they disclosed their name and address and submitted to having their photo taken despite section 60^{xxviii}, like all search powers, giving no right to the police to require disclosure of names and addresses or to require cooperation with police photography. The focus would naturally be on resisting departure on such terms, as a matter of principle, and briefing people on their legal rights.^{xxix} A less antagonistic approach on this matter from the police might have been more constructive.

D. The Deployment of Riot Gear

‘We are concerned that protestors have the impression that the police are sometimes heavy-handed in their approach to protests, especially in wearing riot equipment in order to deal with peaceful demonstrations. Whilst we recognise that police officers should not be placed at risk of serious injury, the deployment of riot police can unnecessarily raise the temperature at protests.’^{xxx}

The Climate Camp initially experienced a generally relaxed style of policing with no riot gear. Police were wearing their numbers on their shoulders.

Riot gear appeared as the afternoon progressed. Unusually, at least in the Climate Camp, police identification numbers remained largely visible throughout, perhaps because of the high profile the Legal Team had given this issue.

The same was not true, as we know from reports of Ian Tomlinson’s death, elsewhere in the City, or indeed just outside the North end of the Camp, and there are accounts and photographs evidencing this lack of numbers.

The wearing of identification is fundamental to individual police accountability. The failure to wear identification should be treated as a serious disciplinary matter.

E. Legal Duties and Human Rights

‘Officers at all levels need to be supported in carrying out their legal and professional duties. Training is vital to ensuring this happens. We recommend that human rights training should be integrated into other training, rather than provided as a discrete component, and that it should be regular, relevant and up-to-date.’^{xxxii}

The evidence we have suggests that police officers frequently were not following basic legal requirements and their own code of conduct, let alone take into account the human rights context.

For instance, search powers are routinely abused. Our evidence and personal experience suggests that section 2 of PACE^{xxxii} was commonly not complied with. We have raised concerns previously in relation to the policing of the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth that section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002 is being used for a purpose that it was not intended – to obtain names and addresses from protestors. Section 50 makes it a criminal offence to fail to give your name and address if asked, when the police officer believes you have acted in an anti-social manner (that is you have caused or your behavior was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress) in order to either check whether an ASBO is in place or to facilitate one being issued. It is a power that is capable of significant abuse by police officers and it is being abused. To illustrate with one example:

James Lloyd, a member of the Legal Team and one of the nominated Police Liaison volunteers, on arriving in a legal observer tabard to observe the police raid on Rampart Street Social Centre on 2 April, was stopped and searched under section 60. His name and address was demanded under section 50 on threat of arrest. For his full account see Appendix 3.

It is difficult to reconcile, personal experiences and the accounts of others (see Appendix 3 below for a small selection of those we have received), with the contents of the Police Code of Conduct (Appendix 4). *‘It is of paramount importance that the public has faith in the honesty and integrity of police officers. Officers should therefore be open and truthful in their dealings.’* – perhaps someone should have reminded the police press officers. That *‘officers should treat members of the public with courtesy and respect, avoiding abusive or deriding attitudes or behavior’* is clearly not honoured by some officers in the context of policing protestors. That *‘officers must never knowingly use more force than is reasonable, nor should they abuse their authority’^{xxxiii}*, is clearly not honoured by some. Similarly, *‘officers must exercise reasonable care to prevent loss or damage to property’*. Finally, *‘Whether on or off duty, police officers should not behave in a way which is likely to bring discredit upon the police service.’*

Sadly, in the context of the policing of protest, the police seem unable discriminate between hardened criminals and committed protestors. In terms of radicalizing people and undermining public confidence in the police, the police seem to be their own worst enemy.

Conclusion

The Climate Camp's Legal Team is waiting to see how the Home Office will respond to recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights report on the policing of protest.

In their report the Committee commented that human rights law meant that *'police should be exceptionally slow to prevent or interfere with a peaceful demonstration simply because of the violent actions of a minority'* (a statement difficult to reconcile with what happened at the Climate Camp). The Committee expressed concern that *'protestors have the impression that the police are sometimes heavy-handed in their approach to protests.'* If the report had been written a couple of weeks later following the G20 protests, we think the Committee would have shared the impression of protestors.

The Committee concluded *'we have not found any systematic human rights abuses as a result of the policing of protest in the UK'*. Our experience is that there are systemic problems with both the policing of protest and with the accountability of police for their actions.

We have one specific request, which may seem a minor request but we believe it is an essential foundation for policing in which the public can have confidence. It is vital that police officers in riot gear have their identification on their fronts and back at all times **in extra large font** so it is clearly visible. There is currently no legal requirement for police officers to display their identification. This needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency.

We have an opportunity right now to determine whether the policing of protest will be continue as we have seen at the G20, and as it has been for some years, or whether it will, in the wording of the title of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report, *'demonstrate a respect for rights'*.

In a rapidly changing world, with increasing pressures on finite resources and their inequitable distribution, increasing social unrest and accompanying demonstrations and protests are likely. We urge politicians of all persuasions to support calls for a full inquiry into the policing of protest.

Appendix 1 – The ‘call out’ for the Climate Camp in the City

Climate Camp 2009

Stopping carbon markets Because nature doesn't do bailouts

First the **city traders** speculated with our **homes, jobs and money** – with disastrous results. Now they are speculating with our climate and the very **future of life on earth** – and once again our governments are cheering them on.

By creating a brain-bending system of carbon pollution licenses, fossil fuel companies and trading firms have found a way to keep on churning out global warming gases and to reap huge windfall profits at the same time. Meanwhile, the UK government is justifying a third runway at **Heathrow** and a coal-fired power station at **Kingsnorth** by saying that these new “**carbon trading**” schemes will magically make all their emissions vanish.

They are handing control of our climate over to the same people and systems that caused the **financial collapse**. All the workable and fair alternatives aren't getting a look-in.

We need to stop this foolishness.

On April 1st the G20 leaders arrive in London. At a time of **climate crisis** their response to the market meltdown is emergency loans to car manufacturers, increased spending to encourage consumption, and bailouts for the very people who got us into this mess - just the thing that will make the climate crisis worse.

Don't let them get away with it: **join our camp in the Square Mile!**

We will converge on the **European Climate Exchange**, Hasilwood House, 62 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AW (street view) at **12:30 exactly**.

Bring a pop-up tent if you've got one, sleeping bag, wind turbine, mobile cinema, action plans and ideas...let's imagine another world.

Appendix 2 – Legal Team’s contemporaneous timeline of events

This timeline was made on the day based on events as they were reported to the Legal Team. It was written up on the 3 April independently from the original notes made during the day. This is the Legal Team’s basic log of events and does not reflect analysis of witness statements and reports from legal observers.

Orientation

The Climate Camp took place all along Bishopsgate from the junction with Wormwood/Camomile (the ‘North End’) to the junction with Cornhill/Leadenhall (the ‘South End’). There were several thousand people camping in Bishopsgate with tents, banners, sound systems, a kitchen etc - the area was very full of campers and their equipment. Partway up Bishopsgate is a junction where Threadneedle Street leads to the west to the Bank of England. At the far western end of Threadneedle Street was where the police had kettled several thousand protestors on the G20 Meltdown protest. At the Climate Camp, the three main control lines that police imposed and acted from were at the North End, The South End and the Threadneedle Street junction. They also had access to the centre of the camp from St Mary Axe through a number of small streets near St Helens Church.

*Note: The G20 “Meltdown” protest at 11am **was not part** of the Climate Camp protest at Bishopsgate at 12.30. However, its progress was tracked throughout as it was heading to a nearby location (Bank of England) and there was concern that incidents could occur that affected the Climate Camp if it spilled out of control to the east. Meltdown-only notes are in Italics.*

Detailed Timeline

- 10.45 Legal observers dispersed throughout the City.
- 11.00 *G20 Meltdown protest sets off for the Bank of England in 4 blocks.*
- 11.14 *Meltdown diverted down Moorgate Street, (keeping Meltdown away from advertised Climate Camp site.)*
- 11.40 *Meltdown protest converging on Bank of England.*
- 12.00 Stop & Searches reported at N of Bishopsgate (site of CC) Foreigner forced to give name and address but police deny it when challenged by LO.
- 12.01 *Meltdown protestors (3000?) reported being kettled by 20 vans at BoE and Threadneedle St*
- 12.05 2-3000 people moving north from London Bridge area.
- 12.20 *“absolute cordon” command issued at Meltdown at BoE.*
- 12.28 Big convergence of Climate Campers on Bishopsgate, tents going up. Police at N & S ends of Bishopsgate demarcating the camp where it meets Camomile St and Leadenhall.
- 12.31 Some police picking up tents with people inside and pushing into cars at N end. South end police leaving tents alone. The camp was obviously successfully established and the police stopped interfering at the North soon. The atmosphere was calm and cheerful.
- 12.45 Roads to east of Bishopsgate leading to St Mary Axe being blocked off by police. Camp still calm and festive.
- 12.54 *Live TV is showing start of first signs of violence outside BOE . Large numbers have been kettled tightly for at least an hour. Crowd getting restless. One masked person with big stick swiftly comes to front line, hits police and retreats instantly into crowd. Police attack front of crowd instead of him. One person shown remonstrating with police while bleeding from head wound. Crowd at BoE still peaceful despite police attack.*
- 13.06 Incident at top of Bishopsgate. Police push some CC people, some are down on the ground.
- 13.10 Threadneedle St (leading to BoE) still open, not yet blocked but lots of police vans massing there.

- 13.16 E end of Threadneedle closed by police. Some people broke out away from BoE protest through these lines.
- 13.20 3 riot vans go W down Threadneedle St towards BoE.
- 13.22 Climate camp is being kettled – ie completely sealed off at N & S ends of Bishopsgate.
- 13.27 Arrests at N end.
- 13.35 Police paramedic forcibly recorded ID from injured protestor corner of Cornhill & BOE (reported to CC legal).
- 13.36 Climate Camp still very quiet.
- 13.37 *Riot police attack crowds at BoE (live TV).*
- 13.38 *TV shows RBS being attacked live. Legal observers warned of trouble at G20 Meltdown protest at BoE/Threadneedle St and told not to get sucked into it, to watch out for it moving towards Climate Camp.*
- 13.40 3 more vans arrive top of Bishopsgate.
- 13.49 Sergeant at N of Bishopsgate tells legal observer that S60 and S60AAA being put into place.
- 14.00 MP had discussion with police. They're concerned about alcohol consumption. Message passed to Climate Camp and all LO to ask people to go easy.

N of Bishopsgate now open, camp is not sealed off to the north.

Camp is still very peaceful. Carnival atmosphere! Confirmed by views live on TV.

- 14.05 Kitchen needs to come in. Asking for police liaison as they're worried about kitchen equipment being seized. Need to feed people. Police Liaison informed.
- 14.25 One Legal Observer has had her notes ripped out of her notebook by police.
- 14.50 Camp still peaceful. Police at N of Bishopsgate putting on Riot gear. No obvious reason.
- 14.51 Police E of Bishopsgate putting on riot gear. No reason for this reported.
- 14.53 Police at Carbon Exchange have riot shields out. No cause reported.

Nothing changes at the camp for the next hour. Kitchen still negotiating entrance with Police Liaison. Eventually successful. It was all very quiet and calm at the Climate Camp, with a party atmosphere. You could see this on live TV.

- 15.45 *Could see on TV huge crowd still kettled at BoE Meltdown protest. Small groups now being let out for a brief period.*
- 15.50 Back at Climate Camp, requests for Camp Media to come to the north end. (The Press are all so bored they are interviewing the Legal Observers - not their remit.)
- 15.51 Reports from South that police are all 'very chilled' and just sitting in their vans.
- 16.08 Reports that rubbish collection is an issue at the camp. Lots of empty bottles lying around. Could be H+S issue if things turn nasty, TV shows the crowd there is getting quite angry at being cooped up so long.
- 16.08 Small numbers of people drinking a lot at N of Bishopsgate.
- 16.36 Masked groups of Meltdown protestors coming up Threadneedle St towards Climate Camp. Procession of some sort arriving from S of Bishopsgate.
- 16.50 Riot police at S of Bishopsgate put helmets on. March arrives and splits up. People can still come and go to camp but police could close entrance instantly if wanted.
- 17.06 150 riot police at E end of Threadneedle St.
- 17.07 Riot police at N end of Bishopsgate some with helmets on.
- 17.07 Efforts by Climate Camp to get City of London Environmental services to provide truck/bins to get rid of bottles ASAP in case it gets nasty.
- 17.08 Riot police at S end of Bishopsgate some with helmets on, not in formation yet. LO asks what they're doing. Officer in Charge – John Dale – reports that people threw things at them [and ran into camp]. They're forming a filter at both ends of the camp. People can still get in and out, through filter.
- 17.17 More and more police at S.
- 17.21 Riot police arrived at N wearing masks.

- 17.23 Police liaison report police say someone is pouring petrol on one of the police vans that has been left inside the Camp. If the camp doesn't sort it out they will come in with riot police. Legal observers told to investigate, Camp informed.
- 17.23 LO at south end told by police 'criminal damage being done to vans left in camp, they're going to go in and get them'.
- 17.30 Police Liaison and solicitor inspect vans. Tyres are flat. No report of petrol. No trouble there. Camp told that vans are an issue.
- 17.30 City of London say would come to clear bottles but not being allowed by police. Police liaison informed.
- 17.37 Arrest of someone.
- 17.40 Police Liaison – police are happy to leave vans and officers in centre (with flat tyres) as long as they do not feel threatened.
- 17.41 N end of Bishopsgate. People milling around outside the camp. Police have given instructions to public 'get in or get out'. Crowd is dispersing.
- 17.48 Sussex police in riot gear replace Met at north end
- 17.56 At south end, police vans blocking road are moved aside and shields distributed. LO told 'a response to marchers outside the camp fighting police' (Sergeant U4076). Approx 50 police there.
- 18.21 People bringing in more toilet materials request police liaison. Toilets onsite are overflowing. More stuff coming in to deal with it, worried it will be confiscated.
- 18.35 BBC news Live shows camp very calm and peaceful. All is incredibly calm. Large contrast to scenes from round BoE. There the crowd is still penned in and now angry.
- 18.40 Police at south overheard saying they intend to disperse the camp. Police liaison informed by Legal.
- 18.41 7 riot vans arrive at south.
- 18.47 6 more vans at south. Officer in charge wouldn't give ID. Asked campers to bring bottles to police lines & they would pass them to Refuse Collection.
- 18.53 Police numbers at N doubled. 40+ police across the road, helmets on but no shields.
- 18.54 These police walking in towards camp from the north.
- 18.56 3 more vans at south. Being given briefings. Total 13 vans riot police.
- 18.56 Riot police at south marching up to police lines. Blocking road. Some people still allowed in or out.
- 18.56 Reports of more and more police at S end. TSG 3,4,5 being briefed.
- 19.00 Camp kettled in from the North.
- 19.00 2 heavy lines of riot police forming at south.
- 19.04 Kettle formed, camp being sealed off.
- 19.05 Riot Police marching a short ways into camp. Pushing tents out of the way. Jumping on bikes, Hitting people. 2nd line of riot police has held back.
- 19.07 People have their hands in the air. Not fighting the police. Shouting 'this is not a riot'. Police hitting them.
- 19.10 Police have stopped advancing.
- 19.12 Camp reports police say they have moved in due to 'breach of the peace'.
- 19.16 Police liaison reports police have opened the barrier at the north end and have suddenly broken off all liaison.
- 19.17 BBC news live (from centre of camp) still shows the camp is incredibly peaceful – the atmosphere is calm. (Most parts of the camp not yet aware what is happening at the ends.)
- 19.18 North end blocked off with large number of vans.
- 19.19 50 new riot police fully suited now in long row along east side of Bishopsgate.
- 19.20 Riot police blocked n entrance
- 19.22 Rreport of campers being beaten up by police half way up Bishopsgate.

- 19.23 Police Liaison has been informed – Silver Command has decided to contain camp because it has ‘kicked off’ at Moorgate (i.e. the Meltdown protesters there are being violent). They are going to hold the camp there for 2 hours and then let them out 20 at a time.
- 19.26 Long line of police and vans formed at N.
- 19.26 South: Riot Police entering the camp, pushing against campers who are in the way. People being pushed and atoned. Everyone has sat down to show they’re not being violent. Lots of people injured. Police have come in about 5-6 m and then stopped.
- 19.29 Medics alerted but all busy treating head wounds.
- 19.31 Riot Police in centre of Bishopsgate forcing everyone get off pavement. Campers still being peaceful, no violence offered to police.
- 19.40 No one from outside allowed in from south (legal observers tried to enter camp). Trouble reported from BoE protest moving along Cornhill St towards camp.
- 19.43 People with head injuries not being allowed out through police lines to go to hospital unless police medics treat them first. Liberty has been informed.
- 20.08 Notice there has been **no** live TV coverage of camp since 19.17 when the police moved in. Odd as coverage was continuous until then. (Report on TV that satellite trucks requested by police to be moved “for safety”).
- 20.12 Southern police line has retreated slowly to Leadenhall junction. Vans coming in from Threadneedle Street. No announcements from the police to the campers.
- 20.20 Legal observer told they’re going to let people out a few at a time at the south.
- 20.23 Arrests and injuries at north end reported by Camp/
- 20.30 At south, 2 police lines have formed between Threadneedle and Cornhill, with a cleared area of the camp making a gap between them. (London police at north, Riot police at south of zone). 7 passive resisters sitting on the ground +2 legal observers in this area between the lines.
- 20.36 Reports that the N end is still mostly peaceful. Some people have been attacked by the police but the campers are still peaceful.
- 20.40 Officer in charge at corner of Lombard/Gracechurch says campers will be allowed to stay as they don’t have resources to remove them.
- 20.44 Reports that people are assembling outside the camp at the north and sitting down blocking wormwood street as a peaceful protest at the police tactics. This is confirmed by legal observers. Sit-down is peaceful but police are about to attack it.
- 20.48 LO reports someone being beaten up by police.
- 20.52 Passive resisters between police lines at south end have been removed. At least 1 was assaulted by 3 officers behind police vehicles, was told during assault “tell your friends how this feels, you’re lucky we don’t break anything” (statement taken and contact details lodged).
- 20.52 6 ‘military vehicles’ reported between police lines at south end. LO allowed to stay between police lines. Individual people being grabbed inside camp and rushed out through both police lines to the south.
- 20.52 All public and legal observers had been dispersed well away from the south end of the camp, outside the police lines. So there is an empty zone to the south, where these people are being dragged away to.
- 20.54 Medics report violent arrest outside Carbon Exchange. Witness calls about same arrest, says it was violent and unprovoked.
- 20.59 More police vans at Liverpool St.
- 21.02 Legal told by Sergeant at north that people are being allowed out at N end.
- 21.05 LO at north end checks this, not true, asked officers, no people may not leave.
- 21.06 LO at south told that police will do “S60 Dispersal” They will take people out 1 x 1 and photo and take details. They will not let the camp stay there overnight.
- 21.23 Double line of riot cops forms at north end. By now there are hundreds of people milling around the junction of Bishopsgate with Wormwood and Camomile, outside the police lines that are containing the

- Camp. Overall quite peaceful – could see this on live TV. One was throwing bottles but was stopped by legal observer.
- 21.26 70 riot police in Threadneedle St get in vans pointing towards the camp. Camp is still peaceful but people worried and penned in.
 - 21.30 Police at N are advancing a bit into tents.
 - 21.31 3 x 20 riot police moving south to St Mary Axe.
 - 21.32 Dog unit brought into sterile zone at south end. Legal observer has been ejected.
 - 21.46 Dog unit removed
 - 21.47 Police Liaison call: Inspector Johnson has told him that – Section 14 Control Order imposed, protest has been there long enough, it is over. They will let people out in 2s at the north as they bring vehicles up from the south to push them out. (There has been no reported announcement to the public about this)
 - 21.55 Legal team comment: that people don't want to leave, and probably won't go if they insist on taking ID as they let them out. Also people don't want to leave, how does 'letting them out' work? Passed this back to Liaison but police not really liaising any more. Concern - how will the campers know this situation?
 - 22.05 12 officers with climbing gear and large suitcases enter camp from south.
 - 22.10 Police entering centre of camp (from Gt St Helens).
 - 22.19 Police at N of camp forming 2 big lines. Lots of riot police in Camomile. They are going to clear the area to the N of the camp (hundreds of people still there outside the police cordon) and then push the campers out in 2s.
 - 22.32 Riot police with LONG shields arrive at south end.
 - 22.37 Police preparing to charge camp.
 - 22.40 SKY news reports 1 protestor has been killed somewhere. Unlikely to be here. Must be BoE.
 - 22.42 Dogs + 2 lines of police at north end.
 - 22.50 People outside Camp cleared from the Junction at north end very suddenly and violently. Baton charges into milling but peaceful crowd. Slowly forcing crowd to the north away from the camp.
 - 23.15 Pushing external crowd up bishopsgate. Hitting people unprovoked. (Note SKY & BBC live TV coverage has stopped again. Have Satellite vans been made to move again?)
 - 23.18 Two LO behind police lines watching this happen are grabbed, dragged through police lines, and thrown into this crowd, and then driven with it up Bishopsgate Repeatedly charged and batoned.
 - 22.32 External crowd is driven up to Liverpool St and further, all the way up to Shoreditch High St.
 - 23.34 Report phoned in of witness to death at Meltdown protest with report that conflicts with police statement. Advised to write statement and contact solicitors.
 - 23.35 South end: 'military vehicles' gone now; just 2 lines of police, Riot police advancing northwards slowly. Some attacks on campers, who are staying put, not fighting, but not leaving.
 - 23.59 North end has been opened. Anyone who wants can leave. But many intend to stay?
 - 00.10 Lots of police building up at south end. Campers insist they will still camp peacefully. It is reported that campers are outnumbered 10:1 by police.
 - 00.17 Police shift change at north end.
 - 00.18 Camp Tranquility person told by an officer they are going to beat up the campers because they're not leaving. Was recorded on video.
 - 00.20 Lots of people packing up and leaving.
- Everything starts happening very quickly now**
- 00.27 All police at south end are in riot gear now. All normal police have been withdrawn.
 - 00.29 Bikes parked at north end being cut away and removed from camp.
 - 00.35 Police move in without warning to clear the camp.
 - 00.37 Some announcement made by police at south as they drag people away. Not intelligible at all.
 - 00.40 Police moving forwards everywhere.

- 00.50 Peaceful campers still staying put. Insist they will camp peacefully. Being grabbed and dragged away through police lines.
- 00.51 Large numbers of riot police move in everywhere. Police say obstruction of highway. Exits still open. Riot Police are charging people, driving them out with full-scale baton charges. Dispersal hugely disproportional and violent by police. Campers are not fighting them. Tents and equipment smashed up. Sound system smashed up. Kitchen destroyed.
- 00.53 Campers repeatedly baton charged and driven all the way down London Wall. Campers and Legal Observers protesting 'this is not proportionate' 'this is not a riot' 'we are not violent' repeatedly beaten and charged.
- 01.00 Camp reported completely cleared. It was incredibly quick and the police were very violent.

There were no reports at all, all day, of anyone inside the Climate Camp attacking any police, even when attacked by Riot Police.

Appendix 3– Personal accounts

Billy Harrington-Roberts: 7pm police advance at South end

I am 17 years old. Here is a recount of my time at Climate Camp. I arrived along with 3 friends at the Climate Camp at around 16.30 **after being at school (sixth form) for the day.** We walked up and down the camp enjoying the peaceful atmosphere, and decided to leave at around 18.30. We were leaving the camp from the south end when we saw numerous police in riot gear preparing to advance on the camp.

As the police lined up we decided to show our support for the protestors by joining the line of campers at the very edge of the camp on the southern side, assuming there would be no violence. I was situated at the very left and front of the camp (when facing outwards at the south end) on the pavement and directly next to the building site which was on the corner of Bishopsgate and Great Saint Helen's.

As the police advanced most protestors around me including myself put our hands in the air to show we meant peace and no one moved towards the police or attacked them in any way. The police directly in front of me were in florescent jackets and were between two and three men wide. Further down the police line on my right the police were all in black. Once the police reached the line of protestors including myself, they first tried to continue to advance by pushing into the crowd using their shields.

I was pushed by them but tried to hold my ground and not fall backwards. People behind me were also holding their ground and the police could not move forward. **Then without any warning the police in front of me drew their batons and advanced by hitting the people in front of them. I was hit several times including once on the head.** This caused a small bump, and several marks and bruises on my right arm.

I turned cowering with my hands still up in the air and was continued to be hit. I then ran around the corner onto Great Saint Helen's along with around 20-30 others. A police line followed us around the corner (which included the police that had been attacking me) and pushed us further down the road by swinging their batons around in front of them and walking quite quickly. After about 2 minutes this police line retreated back to where Great Saint Helen's meets Bishopsgate but prevented us from reaching Bishopsgate and the camp. Having had their batons out and poised ready, the police then put them away about 15 minutes later.

I believe the attack on the camp was completely unnecessary and a breach of the peace. The use of force and aggression I witnessed was also completely unnecessary. I hope this account is useful for making a case against the police and would be happy to help in anyway I can. I hope to go and see my MP in a drop in session soon to complain about what happened and the tactic of 'kettling'.

Natalie: 7pm police advance at South end

Because the policing had been rather calm, people were in general relaxed. There were protestors both inside and outside the line of bikes which loosely demarcated the limits of the camp. Gt St Helens (an alleyway to which the Police had access) was within the limits of the camp. Police presence increased gradually over the next hour or two, we guessed it was because things were cooling down at Bank so they were shifting police presence to the Climate Camp.

At roughly 7 or so (all of the timings are very tentative) **the police charged without any provocation**. As far as I could tell, there was no confrontation that led to the charge. The only increase in tension stemmed from people noticing the growing police presence, but in general people were calm until the charge. The charge targeted the pavement to the sides of the bike line- the police initially broke into the camp in a wedge-like formation, causing some people to panic, and back away, but very quickly dozens of campers surged forward, and with their hands raised above their heads chanted "this is not a riot" and attempted to push the police back. The police were quite aggressive at this point.

I was hit in the face a few times with shields. (Later that evening I discovered a bruise on the side of my head, which may have happened at this time.) A young man behind me was jabbed in the mouth with a baton, which cut his upper lip and made his tooth feel loose, as he told me afterwards. A young woman at the front was caught up in between police officers, and as she cried out and tried to regain her footing, she was shoved repeatedly by police officers, essentially trapping her between police until we could pull her back (she cried for several minutes, asking "Why are they doing this?").

Because the police were pushing forward, there were tents and bags in the way, making footing difficult, so there were several times when protestors were being pushed backwards and falling over, nearly getting trampled by the police. Luckily, protestors helped each other in order to make sure people who were falling were able to regain footing.

At one point the police surged over a tent- there were people yelling "there's someone in that tent!" but the police kept on stepping on it. **The police reacted violently if anyone tried to approach the Camp from the outside: at one point I saw a woman with a camera approach the Camp while the police were still trying to move in (before the protestors sat down) and a police officer hit the camera while she had it held up to her face. She appeared injured, but managed to move away.**

Lily: Outside Camp at North end, clearance with police dogs

We arrived there around 21:30 pm and soon found all our other friends (4) in the northern end of Bishopsgate. We sat on the street and ate some food. I remember that I noticed people were not drinking alcohol as I would have expected generally in a party.

They were playing music, singing, talking, doing yoga etc. On the space around us there were about 200 people. We were sitting on a two-car road space with a park on its side. However, on the most extended but not visible space of the street party, which was the same street but on the south end, there were more people who had been kettled by the police since the early afternoon (around 19:30), according to what my friends had informed me when I asked them.

In the front limit of our space there was a line of policemen (15-20) in navy blue uniform, wearing closed helmets and carrying shields and batons (riot police). Surprisingly, I noticed that most of them (90%) did not have a number on their costume. They were silent and kept staring at people from head to toes. Right behind them there were two police vans and behind the vans another row of 20 policemen in navy blue uniform. For about an hour there were people arriving to our direction as access to the other side of the street party was denied due to the afore mentioned kettling.

Around 11 p.m, the police vans left and we saw half a dozen of policemen (wearing helmets and bright yellow long sleeved jackets as well as black trousers and gloves), holding a dog each on lead. At this time, another policeman in similar uniform started announcing through a loud phone speaker that we had to

leave as we were causing an obstruction. They did so around 20 times and people around were trying to talk to policemen and claim their human right to protest and therefore have an overnight street party in the form of a peaceful protest. At that point I was alone as my friends were off to find a toilet.

Within half an hour, and with no further verbal warning the police in navy blue uniform who were standing in front of us started charging, near midnight time. I was sitting, without my friends, in the third row of people who were sitting down. We immediately stood up on our feet to prevent being hit while sitting. It was an immediate response, a survival instinct to protect ourselves and figure out what's going on.

After a few seconds (10-20) the riot balaclava police (whose eyes are only visible), charged in from the sides as well as from behind the other policemen (who were in navy blue uniforms), and were pushing us back with their shields and hitting us with their batons.

In a few seconds I was attacked by one policeman (in navy blue uniform) who hit me with the baton on my hands and arms, which I had raised up to protect my head. He pushed me with his shield and I fell down. As I was on the asphalt he started beating me at the left side of my body.

As I was holding my head with my hands another policeman who was behind me grabbed me from my hair (on the front right side of my head) and immediately started dragging me on the pavement. He hit me with his baton around 4-5 times on my back and then reversed my body to face up and hit me on my abdomen and appendix area.

Then another policeman in bright yellow jacket, black trousers and a hat who was on the side, but not participating on the charge, shouted at me 'Stand up !!!'. I was trying to stand up on my feet while holding my head. I fell down twice because I was in pain and was mistakenly stepping on my skirt instead of the asphalt.

Then I raised my hand to ask help and a girl, with long light brown hair whom I did not know, gave me her hand and I stood up. She held my back with her other arm and took me away. **After a couple of steps the policeman who had told me to stand up shouted at me: 'You ! Get there!'**, pointing to the right side where two policemen in bright yellow jackets were holding people and asking them questions. The girl walked with me a few more steps and placed me on the wall behind a corner front step of a shop and asked me if I am ok.

I fell on me knees sliding down against the wall and hugged myself. I held my abdomen on the area of appendix with my right hand and held my head above my knees with my other hand. I was in terrible pain and started crying.

Within a minute or two I decided to try and stand up and start walking to a safer place. The girl was still next to me and grabbed my elbow to walk with me. We started walking slowly towards a small road, on the left side of the street that we were (but the right side of the corner shop that I mentioned above), and she asked me how I am and if I need any help. **I told her that this was my first visit to London and in fact my first night there as I had just arrived a few hours earlier. I told her that I had no clue where I was and that I'd lost my friends.**

David Cullen: *Final clearance of Camp*

At around 10, or 11 I ended up at the south end of the camp, where the policing had been most fierce. The atmosphere was markedly different from the north side. They had several lines of riot cops, and vehicles with loads of armour plating - we called them tanks, I've certainly never seen anything like them deployed before.

At the time there was a soundsystem going around & it was being used to coordinate the best consensus we could manage. The result of this discussion was that about half of the people in the camp wanted to go home to bed, and the other half were going to try and stay the full 24 hours. At the time the police were insisting that they would search, take the names and address, and photograph everyone who left. This intimidatory tactic clearly held up things. If they had been more sensible, they could have ended up with a more manageable crowd in a smaller area - no harm done. As they could hear everything that was going on the soundsystem, I find it hard to believe they were too stupid to realise this was the case. In fact, I'm sure they saw that there was some indecision and decided that they wished to use that to their advantage and force the situation to a confrontation. As it was, despite all the problems with having effective decision-making, we orchestrated a controlled retreat.

By this point I was right up against the police line on the south end of the camp, right next to the walls of the office building - at the most south-westerly edge of the site. We were walking with our arms linked, being pushed by a line of police using their riot shields. They kept pushing us, but when we got as far as we'd agreed we sat down.

Shortly afterwards they tried pulling people out of the line - they didn't have batons, but they were punching people, and hitting them with their shields. One guy who was more exposed got hit a lot and was bleeding from the head. We hung onto him, and the line didn't break. As we were only 3 or 4 people deep they then decided to rush the line. This was clearly an operational decision, as they all did it together. We were sitting down, so we basically got trampled underfoot by them. I don't know what happened to the woman who had been next to me, but I guess they dragged her away. It was all very chaotic - arms and legs everywhere, and lots of shouting.

As there were loads of people in the way, this tactic didn't really work for them - **I got a police boot in my face, my friend got her glasses smashed**, and a thin line of police got to the far side of us - but not enough to tackle our line which still held. But they were now between us and the rest of the camp. This situation was static for quite a while, and fortunately nobody near us was badly hurt. **I have a black eye and a fat lip**, but was otherwise ok.

I'm pleased to report that my reaction was to give all the police a proper dressing down. Nothing rude, or aggressive, just telling them exactly what they had done. "You were hitting that guy with your fists, that is completely over the line.....Think about what you are doing, you are supposed to be public servants and you are beating up civilians in the street" - that kind of thing. I also called over a legal observer, and had him film the policeman I could definitely identify as having used his fists.

Shortly after this, they began to pull us out one by one. Most of the police who had got inside the lines had left, and we'd also rearranged ourselves. This meant that I was basically on the corner, so I was the first to be grabbed, and I held on for as long as I could and then went completely limp. I was carried by two cops, and laid on the floor.

They told me to get up & I said I'd rather lie there. **They began to drag me, and another came and grabbed me by the hair, and yelled in my ear - "I'm going to break your fucking neck".**

This hurt enough that I gave up on the limpness, and got up. **I was then shoved against a wall by the hair grabber & his female colleague. Ironically, the whole time he was shouting "calm down, calm down" at me despite the fact that I was actually fully in control of myself and he clearly wasn't. He bent my arms behind my hands behind my back and put cuffs on, and pushed them so that they really hurt. The cuffs trap a nerve in your wrist or something, it is a bit like your funny bone being hit, only worse. My left hand still feels odd if I touch it, almost a week later.**

All through this time I was telling him that I was cooperating, coming quietly etc, and he didn't need to be rough with me. When he put me against the wall he had been joined by a female colleague, and they walked me to the van - **still doing the very painful thing to my arms.** I was really being polite as well - "please stop doing that to my arms, it really hurts", over and over. **A protester outside the cordon was close with a camera and I called her over and asked her to photograph him because he'd pulled me by my hair and threatened me. His female colleague pushed the camera away quite violently. I asked him for his police number, and he refused.**

He was still really worked up. I had my rucksack on, and he was trying to get it off, fiddling with the straps. He kept saying he was going to cut it off, and I kept saying that was completely unnecessary. I told him to take the cuffs off, and I'd remove it. **To reassure him, I said "I won't hit you", and he replied: "If you hit me I'll kill you".** This impasse continued for a couple of minutes. It was stupid because I couldn't even see the straps, he was manhandling me, and they don't undo anyway. Eventually my calmness prevailed, he pulled everything out of my pockets and put me in the van, and shortly after they took the cuffs off and I got the rucksack off. I assumed I was going to the station at this point.

They told me I was arrested when I was cuffed, so I gave my name and address. Another protester was then loaded into the van, and they clearly wanted the space. After asking where I was going to go, and giving my blood curdling warnings about coming back (my instructions were basically to leave the van and keep walking), I was released.

Hero Austin (female): From 7pm to final clearance of Camp

The camp was an immensely creative demonstration- it was educational, enjoyable and entirely peaceful. Despite this, at around 7pm on April 1st, riot police charged the South end of the Camp, wielding batons and hurting protesters. We held our hands in the air to communicate our peaceful intentions, indeed, the most violent thing that I saw the Bishopsgate protesters do was shout "Shame on you!" at the violent police.

During this charge, **the police used their shields as weapons** to shove people back and knock others down. This happened to me- I was shoved by a policeman with a shield and then when I stumbled and turned round, he hit me in the back, this made it very painful to carry anything for a couple of days.

One woman fell down by the riot police vans, she looked terrified. A policeman started beating her with a baton and treating her very roughly. Several of us witnessed this, and so ran to her to try and help her up, but we were met with aggressive police and more batons. One of these policemen had the number

KBC303. What began then was a standoff between the police and the protesters, with us sat down in front of rows and rows of riot police.

At one point, the police decided that they needed to move the border of the police back, **and kicked people in the face**, this happened to one of my friends; his jaw looked bruised and painful.

A bit later on, we decided to move the frontier of the Camp back a bit more because there was a danger that the police would divide it into 2 parts (there were people at the North End of the street and people at the South end, but the centre was a bit sparse).

We did this by using a big sound system to negotiate between the police and the protesters. The first time that we did this the police were fine. However, the second time we did this, the police shoved people, deliberately pushing people down, and they sent many more riot police charging up the pavement (which they had previously cleared). A couple of policeman then lost control- one trampled through the sitting protesters and, in a display of complete lack of respect for our property, began to smash up the sound system.

As a result, the only thing which had the possibility of maintaining order between the police and the protesters had now been destroyed by the police themselves.

Other police followed and started beating protesters who were trying to salvage the sound system or protect those who were being beaten. One of these police lost a bit of his uniform, it looked like his number tag, and a protester bent down and picked it up. The policeman noticed and came over, when the protester refused to give it back, he beat him with his baton until he did. One policeman started going absolutely nuts and hitting everything in sight- including fellow police officers.

Then other police came in and there were a couple of lines of us trapped with police on all sides. One row of riot police in front, then 2 rows of protesters, of which I was one, then another row of riot police with their backs to us (they were dealing with the protesters behind us), **and then more riot police at either end, creating a rectangle with sitting protesters in the middle.**

The police in front of us started shouting for us to "Get Back!" We tried to tell them that we couldn't- they could see that there were other riot police behind us, they started beating, pushing and being aggressive again. This meant that some people were forced back into the second line of riot police and were trod on and trampled.

Police then began to haul us out one by one, hitting those who would not let go. **They dragged me out and pushed me around, not letting me get my balance and when I nearly did, tripping and pushing me from group to group. This whole time I was telling them that I was not being violent and asking them to stop treating me as if I was.**

Once I was through the riot police lines, I was pushed into a line of the Met police. Two of them bent my arms back and pushed me down, telling me to start walking. I explained that it was very painful, that I was no longer trying to resist them and that I could walk much more easily if they stopped forcing my arms down. After a lot of this, they finally relaxed their grip a little bit and shoved me out into the street **telling me that if I knew what was good for me, I would not come back-** I would be immediately arrested.

Abi Edgar: From 10pm at the Camp

I can bear witness to the fact that the police attempted to inform the crowd of something but that it was completely and utterly incomprehensible to anyone in the crowd, at around 10pm.

We were all on the ground (I was on the west side of the southern boundary), and we couldn't hear the announcement at all. **we immediately spoke to the officers above us (who we had previously been having polite conversations with, despite the fact that they'd been hitting us with their batons and shields earlier) and said we couldn't hear what was being said we asked if they could hear it and also asked if they could tell us what was being said, a number of them responded politely saying they couldn't hear it either and they had no idea what was being said, at which point another protestor asked them to radio through and ask what the message was, the policeman replied that he couldn't do that.** I would be willing to put this forward as a statement and have it used as evidence and I'm sure the people next to me, who i can also contact as I know them, would do the same.

I was also a witness to the police attacking the guys with the bicycology soundsystem (P in particular) and the police hitting the soundsystem, pushing people over it and snatching P.

Personally I had the police hit me over the head with shields and batons at the southern perimeter, first at around 7pm and again repeatedly from 10pm onwards. when they did it at 10pm we kept telling them we couldn't move back as there were people behind us which they ignored.

After the police's initial push forward at 10pm there was a moment of quiet and a half metre gap between us and the police, **at this point a couple of police officers whispered to each other and then said clearly "get that one" (indicating to me), I had my arms linked with the people either side of me as 3 police officers- all male (I'm female) grabbed my forearms and tugged and tugged for a few minutes, the person to my right who's arms were linking mine then had another two police officers grab his fingers and bend them back - he now has severe bruising on them.** After a few minutes the police gave up on me and returned to charging against us all.

Throughout all of the fracas I remained with my hands in the air, out in front of me protecting me or linked with another person at chest height and repeatedly said this is not a riot.

At every stage possible I tried to talk to those police facing me explaining the situation - that none of us were there for violence and that we couldn't move back as there were many people and bikes behind us.

Another incident I would like to draw attention to is when the crowd were all sitting on the floor and the police were lined up over them and the atmosphere was very quiet and subdued - at about 8pm, a short blonde white woman wearing smart clothes, about late 20's early 30's, walked up to the police line with her partner - white male, short, late 20s early 30s, **the woman was crying and obviously hyperventilating quite seriously, her partner very, very calmly asked for them to be let out of the cordon - the police refused at which point the woman began to hyperventilate more and said quietly that she really wanted to get out and she was scared, the police told them there was no way they were leaving through this way** - as the woman was getting more distressed her partner reassured her everything was ok and they would get out elsewhere and he led her away. I know this doesn't appear as very serious but I'm appalled that someone who was so obviously distressed and not a threat was treated so inhumanely.

Mark: From 7pm at the Camp

I was by the Farmer's market at this time and, to my knowledge there was not a kettle at this point. Although very soon after the initial 'surge' it became clear that they had kettled us in from both ends. As soon as I saw and heard the commotion in the northside I moved towards the line with my arms in the air and joining with the line saying 'peace not riot'. At this time the riot police made another 'push' towards us at which point the line was left open.

Unfortunately I was unable to get the policeman's details but what I can say is that as soon as I was in this point of vulnerability he pushed me back and batoned my leg. This was an unprovoked attack, the police were acting in such a violent way that was completely unnecessary. There had been no breaches of the peace and after looking at the video footage on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t244-zEENSs> you can see clearly on two occasions I was involved in. The first is about three minutes into the video at 3:09 approx where, if you look at the upper right hand corner I'm wearing a hat and just got hit on my leg. The second time was at 3:53 to 4:04 on the video where I am in the top left hand corner close to the pillar next to a man with a red scarf where I was almost pulled to the ground but am assisted by some people around me at which point we are pushed further back.

After 10pm we were kettled on both sides and we began the task of moving back to solidify our ground on our own terms and under the facilitation and consensus of one of the processors which was being communicated via the bicycle powered sound system. This was a slow process but gave people time to consider their own respective positions and whether in fact they wanted to stay for the night or go. It was becoming apparent that the police did not intend for us to stay the night and after the second 'retreat' they got pushy and started to try to break up the group. At this point we all sat down and chanted 'peace not riot' once again. The police held back but then managed to break our line and form a smaller kettle around a group of campers in front of us. It was then that I heard a loudhailer but it was impossible to understand what was being said. The police then fell back from the smaller kettle that they had formed and encircled us for the last time. We were still seated at this time but they came on with such force that we interlinked our arms and legs and lay down to prevent anyone getting dragged away.

I was laying down with the others when the police started shouting to us that if we didn't move they would start to arrest us one by one. The group was thinning out slowly as people realised the possibility of arrest was imminent. I remained interlinked until I was picked away from the group by two officers and taken through their police line and escorted away from the camp site. When I asked one of the policeman what I was being arrested for, he said I was not being arrested, I was being taken away from the site, however, if I returned on site that I would be arrested. I believe the time then would have been past midnight and I saw that the same protocol was happening with other campers who were 'picked off' and escorted to a point and told not to return.

Lizzie Walsh: Final clearance of the Camp

I was the South entrance from about 11.30pm. We were trying to retreat up the street really slowly, but the police was being really forceful, pushing people back. They then reinforced the line along the pavement that they had 'taken' at 7pm in between the riot vans and our front line, obviously getting ready to cut us off.

I went with a group of people to make another line in front of those riot police, we had barely made 2 lines of people when they started attacking completely without warning. They started hitting us with their riot shields, and trying to push us to the floor. **I was kicked repeatedly in the legs and knees by a Police medic, who kept coming round the other riot police to attack me-** I don't think he was meant to be in the police line up, he didn't have a shield etc.

We sat on the floor and after a while they stopped attacking. We tried to have a meeting to decide whether or not to retreat/ stay put or end the camp before anything else happened. **Before we could finish the meeting the police started making the announcements over the megaphones- which we couldn't hear-** so the group that was sitting on the floor started to shuffle back, for fear that if we stood up the police would start attacking us again.

It may also be useful to bare in mind that we were shuffling back across the part of the street that had been used for the toilet during the day. **We kept trying to say that we couldn't hear them, that we wanted to move back, but they suddenly started to pull people one-by-one from the group of us that was sitting on the floor, and as we were linking together, they were being incredibly forceful in doing this.**

I saw one officer hit someone in the head with his shield in order to make them let go of other people. A couple of officers were shouting at us to get up and walk away or we'd be arrested- which physically wasn't possible if we had wanted to.

Some people were dragged away- none of the people I knew were actually arrested, they were just taken out of the area and the group on the floor disbanded after a while. I don't really have any other relevant knowledge about what happened, **except for the fact that whenever someone mentioned getting the policemen's number they covered up their badges.**

Rachel: Final Clearance of the Camp

When I visited the South end of Climate Camp at around 11pm on Wednesday 1st April, I was very impressed about how quiet and calm it was. All the people in front of the police were sitting down and there was no aggression from the climate campers. I know that earlier it had been less calm, so I was impressed at how the campers had so much control, and how relaxed it felt.

Each time I re-visited, it was the same. Two or three lines of protesters sitting calmly at the feet of one line of police.

I sat down myself some time before midnight, at the west side of the street, in the front row just at the feet of the police officers.

There was a decision to make the camp smaller, and for us to move north. This decision was to be implemented by the people sitting down in front of the police standing up, and walking three steps north, pausing, and repeating. During the pauses I heard the commanding officer ordering the police to "Keep going". This meant that rather than walking behind us as they had done at the beginning, the police began to push us with their shields.

People asked them not to do this, but given that they had been instructed to, they continued.

Due to this behaviour, a decision was made for the protesters all to sit down once more. I think it was at this point that the police on our side of the street were instructed to break throw us. **At that point there were about three lines of protesters sitting at the feet of the police, very peacefully. Some police stamped over us while the police behind us punched and kicked us. My friend was hit on the head and went to hospital the following day for concussion. I had my glasses broken, and was kicked in the private parts. Another friend was kicked in the head and now has a black eye. They tried to snatch the**

man next to me by grabbing him round the neck and repeatedly hitting him. We held on, and eventually they gave up, and the police that had broken through went back to behind police lines.

At this point, the police calmed down and stopped brutalising us for a while. We took the opportunity to call over a legal observer who recorded the numbers of the police officers who had been observed hitting some of us. **Some police officers were extremely surly and reticent to show their numbers.**

A while later, the police began to snatch us one by one. In many cases this again involved an unnecessary amount of force. The man next to me was grabbed around the neck in a very similar way to the first time.

Louise Broadbent: *From 7pm at the Camp*

I got attacked twice on 1st April 2009 by police in riot gear on at Climate Camp on Bishopsgate for no reason at all.

The first time was about 7.10pm. It went from a group of people dancing, eating, chatting, then suddenly a line of riot police appeared and started battering the crowd.

I was getting battered in the face and chest by police using their riot shields side-on as weapons, plus fists (I had my hands in the air and was not being in any way threatening). The rest of the crowd also mainly had their hands in the air and were calling "peace, not riot" and "this is not a riot".

A policeman punched the man next to me full in the face for no apparent reason; I managed to get his badge number (reported to climate camp legal observers on the day), and as I was writing it down I turned my back to the row of police, **and was pushed to the ground violently from behind.**

Luckily I was picked up by someone in the crowd (not the police). The girl next to me who must have been all of 5 foot tall was then pushed to the ground by a policeman, and the wall of riot police moved forward and were trampling on her as she screamed.

The second time: around 2-3 hours later: We had been sitting in the front row at the same end of bishopsgate for about 2.5hours, **a German couple next to us were writing postcards home - it was that kind of atmosphere.**

One of the police officers had joked "we've got a surprise for you".

(The German girl subsequently got beaten up as well - we were calling for medics because **she was in shock afterwards and appeared to be in pain, saying she had been kicked in the stomach - but the police medic refused to help her - she was still shaking and crying when we saw her 2 hours later)**

- the basics of what happened are:

with no warning, the police charged: **They pressure pointed me on my neck and held my arms behind my back whilst threatening to break my wrists; dragged me outside the cordon, one on each side in a wrist lock laughing and joking and saying "what shall we do with her now" ... "let's chuck her back in" before shouting "coming through!" and hurling me face first (hands behind my back, holding me up, literally throwing me through the air) back through the police cordon.**

From this I have bruises on my face, neck (finger-bruises from pressure pointing), chest and wrists. I am still suffering pain in my wrists several days later.

I had been sitting down peacefully with my boyfriend when they did all of this. I saw him get punched in the face and descended on by police hitting him with their shields side-on as I got dragged off him, and I was shouting "please don't hurt him".

Finally: I'm on medication - my friend had escaped with my bag before they barricaded us (to give you an idea, I was there from 12.30pm till 11.30pm). At the other end of Bishopsgate (the Liverpool St end) not long after we were attacked by the police, we were told that we would be allowed out one by one if we gave ID and names and addresses.

We got to the other end - it wasn't true, they weren't letting anyone out - by which point I was starting to panic and really needed access to my inhaler and my other medication. **I asked for a police medic (in riot gear) who told me they were under specific orders not to let anyone out FOR medication. I said I was on the verge of collapse and he just shrugged and walked off.**

At which point the crowd behind us, who just wanted to leave, started shouting "let us leave" and the police started pushing - there was a line of police with batons, then behind them police dogs barking their heads off - and behind them a line of riot police - I started panicking, my boyfriend was holding me up and calling for a medic, the police were reaching for their batons. Only at this point did we manage to get through the police line. I have attached some photos my boyfriend took with his phone of some of the bruises that I sustained from my contact with the police.

Roxanne Halsey: *From 7pm, South end*

Climate Camp in the city on April 1st in Bishopsgate was an incredibly peaceful and powerful protest. I wanted to write to you to give you my full account of the events that happened on that day as the media has failed to cover it truthfully and there are many points I feel need to be made public. Please take the time to read this account.

Thousands of people appeared in the street at exactly the same time at 12.30pm with pop-up tents and decorations for the space. It was packed with people, dancing and playing instruments. There were workshops soon underway teaching people how to make changes to become more eco-friendly and helping people understand and think about links between Capitalism and climate change and all about how Carbon trading works. Everyone was sitting peacefully at these workshops eager to learn how they could take responsibility and control over their effect on the planet.

During this time, people were allowed to enter and exit the camp freely without any comment from the police that surrounded us on all sides. **However, by about 7pm the police suddenly and without warning decided to kettle everyone in and stop anybody leaving.** Because there was no prior warning to this, a friend who had come to see what was happening but with no intention of joining the protest was held in the police kettle with the rest of the protests until gone midnight.

I had gone to the South end of the camp because people had begun screaming and shouting. The riot police that had formed lines keeping us in at the South side of the camp had begun pushing their way into our camp and hitting people who pushed against them with their batons. I picked up my friend who had been hit and we all held our lines protecting our rights to use our public space with our hands in the air to signify our peaceful intentions. **It was incredibly powerful to see peaceful protestors sitting calmly on the floor with hands in the air chanting "this is not a riot" being beaten and trodden on by riot police that outnumbered us.**

I then moved along the front lines to an area where my friends sat. Two women and two men had previously been sitting there but I later found out that they had been dragged away by the police. **I could see a separate group of police standing down a side alley, under some construction work and scaffolding. I could see through the legs of the riot police that they had formed a tight group and could hear shouting and screaming.**

As the police once again began pushing us forward with no warning, **the two women that had been taken away and one man were forcefully thrown back to where I was sitting now.** The head of one of the women hit me hard in the face as she was thrown and my eyes began streaming. She then landed in my friend's lap and was crying uncontrollably and unable to talk due to the pain in her stomach. **We called for a medic from our camp to come and help before realising that the riot policeman directly in front of her was a medic, and obviously aware of the situation in front of him. He was unresponsive and unwilling to help until he finally shouted at me to tell her to stop crying so she could let him know what was wrong with her. He did nothing to help** and the woman gave a witness statement to our legal team and then went away to find her friend who had been thrown in with her with badly swollen eyes looking incredibly disorientated.

I then went back to my tent to rest for around 45 minutes as my head was hurting and my face ached where I had been hit. I went back to the South side once again after hearing more people screaming and shouting for help and found that the police had begun pushing people back into our camp with their shields. **I was appalled to see one riot policeman push forward out of his line and literally beat people in front of him with his baton. This was one of the most disgusting things I saw as this particular man looked as if he were enjoying himself and then returned to his line as if nothing had happened.**

By this point, having been kettled in by the police for around 4 hours, our own toilet facilities which we had constructed and were working were unable to support all the people stuck in the campsite and with no other options people had begun urinating in the street. Now I was at the front and sitting down with other protestors with my hands in the air once again, and everyone there was doing this sitting on the streets that were now covered in urine.

I heard a policeman at our end make an announcement but too quietly, so nobody could hear. **A person next to me asked the riot police face to face with us if he could get a message to the person making the announcement and giving them their orders to let them know that we could not hear what they were telling us. The policemen replied that he couldn't do that - that they did not have the technology for that.**

The next time the police surged forward with no more warning than shouting "move back" they began to pull individuals out of the crowd. **They singled people out with groups of them pulling us apart and forcefully pulling people to the ground this was incredibly scary and dangerous as my friend who was now lying on the ground as his legs had been pulled could not get back on his feet and risked being trampled. As they kept pushing we held together trying to protect each other but could do nothing as there were crowds of people packed tightly behind us. One policeman pushed his shield into my friend's stomach and she could not breathe. I was pushed down to the ground and ordered to get up but I could not. A policeman grabbed my arm with painful force and threw me back. They shouted at us that there was no one behind us and we could move back safely, but we couldn't because there were hundreds of people behind us and rows of tents.**

They continued to push us back over people and tents, destroying our toilets and our kitchen with no regard for our belongings or people still inside tents. We were picking up tents and bags and running

towards the North exit of the camp where **riot police stood laughing at us and asking whether we had a good time.**

Michelle Kastern: Final clearance of the Camp

I will try write this account without emotion.

My boyfriend, [], and I attended the Climate camp from the 12:30pm to when the riot police began to use force just before midnight. We based our camp on the side where the big banner was saying 'Nature doesnt do bailouts' next to one of the workshop spaces. **The atmosphere was fantastic, we used our cooker to make coffee every now and then and cook our supper. Danced along with the ceildh and asked requests from the guy playing guitar.**

Thought we would then wonder over to the other end (I think south) and found that everyone was sitting in a line. This was at about 10:45. We decided to join in the peaceful happenings. If you are facing the police line, then we were in the right corner, trying to stop the police from splitting the camp in 2. We then linked arms with everyone around us and moved 3 steps forward at a time as agreed by the protesters. And then sat down again.

We were right up against the police and they started pushing. we had people in front of us so where getting squashed. I then moved forward and watched what was happening. [my boyfriend] decided to stay and help a girl who the police where just walking over. He pointed this out to the police officer behind him and then from behind another officer shouted at him abusively and forcefully pushed over him hitting him with batons followed by other officers doing the same.

I watched and ran to help. We were not there to fight with the police as this was a peaceful protest and if the police where looking to get aggressive resistance we did not want to give them that. So he too stepped away from the firing line, in shock of what he just had happen to him and abuse he just had from the police.

Soon after that the police starting pushing in more and more using riot techniques on a non rioting group of protesters. We go tour bags and just still got out of the camp on the other end where the bike line was. There were rows and rows of riot vans and more police just waiting to clear out the camp it seemed.

I have attached a video which is not very clear but if you look on the far right there is a man in a blue jacket speaking to the office who then tries to hold the aggressive police man behind him back shortly before he hit [my boyfriend]. it is close to the end of the clip. Unfortunately I cut off before.

If you need more info please ask. I don't know what else to write. We are both still in Climate camp excitement and police shock and think that the action of the police around midnight needs to be reported.

Teresa Delaney: Outside Camp, South end from 7pm

Having gone on the march earlier in the day and then gone home, I met a friend and intended to join the Climate Camp with him on Weds 1st. We ended up arriving at around 6.35pm to outside the kettle on the southern side of Bishopsgate, unable to get into the camp. **I could hear dancing and singing inside the kettle - as well as people asking to get in or out.**

I witnessed , and have attached some photographs, that at around 7pm **Riot Police Officers slammed into the crowd without any warning - using their shields and batons against penned-in peaceful people with nowhere to go with their hands clearly in the air.**

They threw people's tents and bikes into us behind them, and I and other people tried to clear them to the side to firstly, stop people falling over them, and to protect them from damage or theft. The Police did not do this.

This 'storming' of the crowd happened two or three times. Even in the face of this provocation, which shocked me despite attendance at numerous demos in the past, the worst I saw from the Camper's side was one empty water bottle being thrown during one of the charges. **We were all chanting "Shame on you" and "This is not a riot" on both sides of the kettle and I saw no-one become aggressive or violent to the Police.** I felt the need to stay, despite being outside the Camp, as a witness to events. You could still hear and see people inside trying to continue the peaceful and pleasant atmosphere despite the Police actions.

After this the riot police made two lines, one facing those in the Camp, and another facing the couple of hundred people outside it.

Later on, at around 8-9pm, the Police encircled those of us who were outside the kettle with increasing force. They lined up riot and ordinary police vans to make almost a wall behind us. They were still not letting people out of the kettle. **I saw a young slight woman in the foetal position being dragged out of the kettle and thrown onto the pavement by several Police Officers.**

There were by now City of London "regular" officers there as well as the more aggressive riot clad ones. They started to move us off (many of us had by now sat down), stating explicitly that they would ask nicely and then the riot officers would deal with anyone left. We decided to get up and walk away - as I did **a riot-clad officer repeatedly pinched my back and arm despite the fact I was doing what he wanted.** I have no idea why he needed to do this to someone peacefully walking away.

City of London officers now pushed us back into the Police vans, and continued to push us until it occurred to them that maybe we weren't able to walk through them! There was a chaotic minute or so at this point, the worst moment being when one City Policeman with no provocation apart from the Police-caused confusion, threw punches at a man, and needed to be stopped by other officers and members of the public. They then pushed a group through a small gap in the vans, causing a bit of a stand off, then more peacefully let others including myself walk through one by one. The final very dark photograph I have attached is of the Police line just past the vans, showing where we were pushed through, at this point.

We were by now far back from the people in the kettle, right on the junction. At this point (around 10.30pm) we were no longer effective witnesses to what was happening to the people inside so we decided to leave.

Hannah McClure: Police raid of protestors sleeping space, 2nd April

I was participating in the meeting concerning on how best to leave the squat when I heard to sound of the approaching riot police. We decided to run upstairs to the top floor and stick together in order

to protect the space. We stayed in a group and sat down on the floor with our hands up showing our peaceful intentions. Dozens of riot police entered. I remember **seeing one officer with a taser gun**. He pointed it directly at the group and yelled at us to lie face down and with arms stretched out. Very direct and abusive language was used during this ordeal.

I heard one guy received more physically and verbal abuse because he was filming the raid. I was unable to see what was happening because I was verbally forced and threatened to keep my head down. They took the guy with the film away and later on I heard screams of pain. I also heard him yell. "Help, I need a medic" a few times.

I lay on the ground for around 30 minutes and was then taken and handcuffed, searched and detained on the suspicion of violent behaviour. I sat hand cuffed until I was led downstairs and outside where I was filmed, asked for name, D.O.B and address and was then photographed. I was led to the curb where **I was then released around 30-60mins later because they had no photographic evidence that I was involved in violent behaviour.**

I was left psychologically and emotionally drained, shocked at the tactics and methods used by the police. I feel legal action should be taken for this unnecessary and violent raid.

Simon: *Police raid of protestors sleeping space, 2nd April*

At 12.30, on the 2nd April 2009, I was present in the basement of the squatted convergence centre at 8-16 Earl Street, London. We had just finished a meeting discussing the presence of Forward Intelligence Teams outside the building when I heard a series of loud crashes coming from the stairwell that leads to the front door. Somebody shouted out that there were riot cops at the door and people began to panic. We all moved upstairs to the 1st floor and people barricaded the door behind us to give us a little bit more time to sort ourselves out.

The police began to smash the door down so we all sat down on the floor with our buddies and put our hands in the air to show that we wouldn't resist or attack them. Not all of us were in the same place. I don't know where the others were but we numbered at least 20 in this little space. As the police entered the room, one of our lot tried to run across the room to join us in the big group but a riot cop caught up with him and hit him with his baton. **The guy who was being hit cowered against the wall with his arm up to protect him but the cop hit him a few more times.** At this point in time a lot of police ran into the room; most had shields and batons ready to hit people but **at least one had a yellow taser pointed at us. They yelled to us to get face down on the floor. At this point, somebody was filming with a video recorder but a policeman grabbed it out of his hand and threw it against the wall.** We were detained face down on the floor for quite a long period of time, during which we were told not to talk and occasionally they would shout at us. I asked the police what we were being arrested for and he just told me to "shut up".

The police began taking us one by one and arresting us for violent disorder, I was sitting further back in the room so it took them longer to reach me. All of us were made to sit on the floor with our hands tied behind our backs. The first man to be arrested was taken away into another room and for a few minutes I could hear him screaming. I don't know what the police were doing to him but it sounded very painful.

I was one of the first to be led outside. As I was being led through the building I could see the windows and doors that the police had smashed to get up through the building. I was refusing to talk to

my arresting officer as see little point in engaging with them. They guy behind me was being taunted by his arresting officer, the cop was saying to him "If you could change one thing in the world what would it be?" he replied "more love" and the cop mocked him saying that love wouldn't have stopped the credit crunch and calling to other officers to mock him.

I was led outside and had my photograph taken by the F.I.T and then sat on the pavement for quite a long time. Eventually, my arresting officer searched me and changed my cuffs so that my hands were at the front and I could smoke. After a long period of time I was simply told that I was de-arrested and that I should leave the area. During this time, workers had begun to board up the doors to our squat, illegally evicting us.

Andrew: Police raid of protestors sleeping space, 2nd April

On Thursday 2nd April I was present in the convergence space on Earl Street when the police forcibly entered. We were gathered in the basement when we heard the door being pounded with great strength. I ran up the stairs onto the first floor (i.e. two flights up from the basement). The doors were barricaded but it sounded like the police were using a battering ram and the consensus decision to react passively was quickly re-confirmed. I was with around twenty to thirty people at the back of the room (we couldn't see anyone else from where we were situated). **We all sat down together with our hands in the air.**

Suddenly the room was filled with riot police, fully armoured with shields and all with batons drawn (some had wooden batons and some telescopic metal ones). Several of the officers had tasers clearly displayed. They came running into the space where we were sitting, screaming and shouting at the top of their voices - not coherent commands but aggressive, angry shouts which were more like war cries than anything else. They seemed very keen to lash out and it seemed that only the vocal commands of the higher ranking officers held them back from hitting us.

Shouting at the top of their voices, **they ordered us all face down on the floor, forcibly pushing down those within reach even though everyone was complying.** At first they made us keep even our faces towards the floor. Several people immediately asked what they were doing and what legislation they were using but were screamed at to shut up. We lay there for several minutes. The police did not seem to know what they were supposed to be doing. If we tried to talk to them or each other we were told to shut up.

Eventually some of the officers who were evidently in charge of the operation entered the room. Several people were then roughly pulled to their feet and taken to the side of the room or into adjoining rooms individually. I could see cable ties being put round their wrists and that they were being searched.

The police were not saying what legislation they were using at any point and told people to be quiet when they asked. **One person who had been taken out of sight was shouting in pain and distress for a minute or so. I could also hear people asking to see medics and being refused (as far as I was aware police medics entered the room for the first time up to ten minutes after this).**

The police seemed to have calmed down a bit after a few minutes - they had us surrounded with at least one officer per person on the floor. They began picking people off a few at a time to search them and cuff them with cable ties. They still didn't seem to know what was going on - I heard one officer say "are we meant to be arresting them?". Some officers were telling people they were being arrested, some were

saying we were merely being detained. They told us we were under suspicion of violent disorder. They had to stop for a few minutes because they ran out of cable ties and had to wait for more. **One person on the floor had his phone out and was filming proceedings. When the police noticed an officer came over and told him he would have to stop or the phone would be taken off him.**

Eventually I was pulled up and told I was being arrested for suspicion of violent disorder and that I would be taken outside, filmed and the footage cross-referenced with footage from the protests the day before - if I was identified I would continue to be detained. I was searched and handcuffed with cable ties, my wrists tied together behind my back. I was then led over to a corner of the room. After a few minutes, a different officer pulled me to my feet. He asked me if I had been searched, when I told him I had he said he would search me again to be sure. He was more thorough and also went through my wallet - I asked him if he had the right to do this and he said I might have a razor blade hidden there. He took me to wait in a queue by the door (one police officer to one arrestee) and told me I was to be taken outside where I was to be filmed and give my details. He said that the information would be checked against the footage they had from the protests the day before - if I was not identified I would be 'de- arrested' and free to go but if I was I would be taken to the station.

I was told I did not have to give my details but I would be held for longer if I chose not to. I was taken down to the street by my arresting officer. I explained that I had belongings in another part of the building but was told I would not be allowed to fetch them or come back into the building after leaving and that I would just have to wait; the police would do their best to return property later. There were at least a hundred other riot police in the street, both ends of which were blocked off with police vehicles. There was also some kind of urban combat vehicle with police insignia. There were a couple of press camera teams inside the police lines, one was entering the building as I went out. I was put against the wall outside and gave my name and address to a FIT officer with a video camera, who also filmed me up and down, back and front. I was then led to the pavement and made to sit on the kerb.

I then asked my arresting officer what legislation was being used to break into the building and arrest us. After some consultation with colleagues he responded that they were using Section 2, suspicion of violent disorder. After around half an hour, I was told that I had not been identified and was being de-arrested. I asked about my belongings again. My arresting officer did not seem to know what to do, but eventually decided I could re-enter the building with him and find my bags. I was allowed to collect them without them being searched.

I was then escorted to the end of the street and **told not to attend any protests if I knew what was good for me.** The officer also **told me that the police had been reasonable with me so I should let it drop and not try and lodge any complaints.**

James Lloyd: Search of legal observer, 2nd April outside police raid at Rampart Street

2nd April 12.19, Alerted to it being raided by police a call for legal observers was requested. 12.25 arrive at Ramparts. 12.46 ITN news crew embedded with police waiting to enter building in, no warrant seen when requested, no senior office name given when asked for. I was taken aside at the point when I asked for the warrant by about five FIT officers. Had a camera pointed in my face and photo taken. Held onto and surrounded and shouted at. **Immediately my video camera was removed from my hand. As soon as they seen the dictaphone in the other hand it was ripped from my hand, I was told 'we are not having any of that'. I protested and said that I could record this and told that was not going to happen.**

I was threatened verbally and with very aggressive behaviour of numerous officers asking me what my name was. Telling me how could they tell I was a legal observer, even though I had a bib on, note book, video camera and

dictaphone. I was then searched and asked for my name and address which I said I did not have to give them. I had my note book and stuff in pocket thrown on the floor where it remained. I was then **threatened with arrest if I did not give my name and address. I told them that was not possible under s60 searches.** I told them that both Gold Broadhurst, Silver and Bronze commanders had my name and number from yesterday and they could get it if they wanted it but they did not have the right to get it now. They continued to search, at no point did I give any resistance to search. They found a selection of pens and pencils in my pocket, this **included a marker pen, at which point I was threatened with criminal damage,** I responded by showing them that I used it to write legal phone number on my arm. **Next they found that I had two mobile phones** (one was my personal phone and the other my Climate Camp Police Liaison phone from 1st April) on me **I was immediately threatened with arrest for theft because they could not tell that they were mine unless I gave them my name and address.**

Once they had searched me I was taken aside by one officer (Asian officer about 5'11" Warrant NO' 194580 Team unit T3 and a WPC and taken up the street away from the position I was in front of Ramparts. I was taken about 20 meters up the road with my back to the wall. **I was told clearly that I was about to be arrested and had one more chance to give my name and address before I was taken to the station for rest of the afternoon.** I clear asked 'If I do not give you my name and address will you arrest me?'. I was then answered by the officer 'If you do not give me your name and address I will arrest you'. I was told it was under a section 60 and I would be arrested for anti social behavior. At which point I gave him my name and address. He then left, I had no camera, no recorder, no note book and was held away with the WPC who was not allowing me to move. This was important because at this point the building was being raided I could not record or see what was happening. I was detained in this position for a further 20 minutes.

Appendix 4 – Extract from Police Code of Conduct

Honesty and integrity

1. It is of paramount importance that the public has faith in the honesty and integrity of police officers. Officers should therefore be open and truthful in their dealings; avoid being improperly beholden to any person or institution; and discharge their duties with integrity.

Fairness and impartiality

2. Police officers have a particular responsibility to act with fairness and impartiality in all their dealings with the public and their colleagues.

Politeness and tolerance

3. Officers should treat members of the public and colleagues with courtesy and respect, avoiding abusive or deriding attitudes or behaviour. In particular, officers must avoid: favouritism of an individual or group; all forms of harassment, victimisation or unreasonable discrimination; and overbearing conduct to a colleague, particularly to one junior in rank or service.

Use of force and abuse of authority

4. Officers must never knowingly use more force than is reasonable, nor should they abuse their authority.

Performance of duties

5. Officers should be conscientious and diligent in the performance of their duties. Officers should attend work promptly when rostered for duty. If absent through sickness or injury, they should avoid activities likely to retard their return to duty.

Lawful orders

6. The police service is a disciplined body. Unless there is good and sufficient cause to do otherwise, officers must obey all lawful orders and abide by the provisions of Police Regulations. Officers should support their colleagues in the execution of their lawful duties, and oppose any improper behaviour, reporting it where appropriate.

Confidentiality

7. Information which comes into the possession of the police should be treated as confidential. It should not be used for personal benefit and nor should it be divulged to other parties except in the proper course of police duty. Similarly, officers should respect, as confidential, information about force policy and operations unless authorised to disclose it in the course of their duties.

Criminal offences

8. Officers must report any proceedings for a criminal offence taken against them. Conviction of a criminal offence or the administration of a caution may of itself result in further action being taken.

Property

9. Officers must exercise reasonable care to prevent loss or damage to property (excluding their own personal property but including police property).

Sobriety

10. Whilst on duty officers must be sober. Officers should not consume alcohol when on duty unless specifically authorised to do so or it becomes necessary for the proper discharge of police duty.

Appearance

11. Unless on duties which dictate otherwise, officers should always be well turned out, clean and tidy whilst on duty in uniform or in plain clothes.

General conduct

12. Whether on or off duty, police officers should not behave in a way which is likely to bring discredit upon the police service.

Notes

ⁱ The Climate Camp Legal Team is formed of individuals who, concerned about climate change and the policing of protest, volunteer their time to: brief attendees on their legal rights, train people to act as legal observers to monitor and record the policing and collect evidence during protests. Afterwards the team forwards relevant evidence to solicitors acting for those charged with offences or for those who bring assault claims against the police. They are not the Climate Camp's lawyers. Each year the team has taken legal advice on potential legal claims and the police complaints process and has concluded neither offers an effective means of holding the police accountable for their actions. Since the blanket s1 PACE searches and the sweeping property seizures at the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth, Kent in August 2008, the Legal Team has been campaigning for the policing of protest to be proportionate and lawful. It is grateful for the financial support of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd in its work.

ⁱⁱ HL Paper 47-1, HC 320-1

ⁱⁱⁱ The 'call out' for the Camp is included as Appendix 1.

^{iv} At the time of writing, one person was bound over to keep the peace and one person is on police bail waiting to see if they will be charged. At previous Climate Camps, no Camper has been convicted of any offence of violence.

^v Collectively detained, regardless of individual behaviour or circumstances in a confined area, without arrest often for some hours, without access to food, drink or toilet facilities.

^{vi} The Legal Team's contemporaneous timeline is included as Appendix 2.

^{vii} See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t244-zEENSs>, now with over 100,000 views.

^{viii} In the Austin case (to the effect that kettling was proportional and in good faith in that case) Lord Neuberger's summary of the relevant facts in favour of the police was: 1) the cordon was imposed purely for crowd control purposes, to protect people and property from injury; 2) the cordon was necessary as many of the demonstrators were bent on violence and impeding the police, and its imposition was in no way attributable to policing failures; 3) the purpose and reason for imposing the cordon were at all times plain to those constrained within it; 4) the cordon lasted for as short a time as possible; during its imposition, the police attempted to raise it on a number of occasions, but decided that it was impractical; 5) the inclusion of the Appellant and the demonstrators constrained with her within the cordon was unavoidable; 6) those who were not demonstrators, or were seriously affected by being confined, were promptly permitted to leave; 7) although the Appellant suffered some discomfort, it was limited, and the police could not have alleviated it; further, she could move around within the cordon; 8) the Appellant knew in advance that many of the demonstrators intended to cause violence, and that the police were concerned about this. The first three of these were definitely not the case, the fourth probably not the case, the fifth dependent on the identity of the Claimant, but highly unlikely, the sixth probably untrue, the seventh is dependent on the identity of the eventual Claimant, and the eighth specifically not the case about the climate camp (and recognised by the police at the meeting with the legal team on 30 March 2009).

^{ix} See green.tv for Climate Camp Legal Team's film.

^x Ibid, para 26.

^{xi} Society Guardian, 8 April 2009.

^{xii} 1. A part-time non-executive chairman and single term appointments for Commissioners. 2. Increased numbers of IPCC investigations of shorter duration. 3. Become public-facing, adopting an ombudsman type of service, with

the focus on proper redress for the public. 4. Commissioners taking proper responsibility for investigations and appeal decisions.

^{xiii} According to its website ACPO *'is an independent, professionally led strategic body. In the public interest and, in equal and active partnership with Government and the Association of Police Authorities, ACPO leads and coordinates the direction and development of the police service in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In times of national need ACPO - on behalf of all chief officers - coordinates the strategic policing response'*. It is exempt from FOI requests but ACPO acknowledges that they are involved in vital work and say *'nonetheless, ACPO is very willing to place much of its information in the public domain'*. However, it identifies a host of excuses for not providing information: *'The organisation is too small and there are too few members of staff to be able to conduct the necessary research and to compile the responses. Accordingly, ACPO is adopting a policy of responding to requests for information only if it is readily available and can be swiftly transmitted to the inquirer; that implies requests by e-mail to info@acpo.police.uk for single, clearly identified documents which do not contain sensitive material. Other requests for information will be politely refused.'*

^{xiv} See the Climate Camp Legal Team's previous report on the policing of the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth for examples.

^{xv} The Legal Team's contemporaneous timeline shows that there had been no live TV coverage from the Camp from 19.17 despite pretty continuous coverage until then and notes report on TV that police had requested satellite trucks to move for safety reasons. Live TV coverage stopped when the North end of Bishopsgate outside the Camp was forcibly cleared. There was no TV coverage of the final clearance.

^{xvi} A terrorist legally is essentially someone who uses or intends to use violence or serious damage to property to influence government or intimidate public, or section of it, to advance a political, religious or ideological cause. So with activists it comes down to what is serious damage to property – is that cutting through a fence to drop a banner or super-gluing yourself to the front door?

^{xvii} 9 November 2008, Observer, 'Police warn of growing threat from eco-terrorism' by Mark Townsend and Nick Denning.

^{xviii} Again, indicative of this trend, is a recent letter from the Assistant Chief Constable of Kent to the Chairman of CPRE Kent supposedly about the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth^{xviii}:

'If I start by referring to another area of public protest, which concerns the rights of animals used during experiments by Pharmaceutical and related industries. This is clearly a legitimate area of public concern and protest and one which the police service would be keen to facilitate and support. However what we have learnt over recent years is that within this particular protest there were individuals who believed it was necessary to go well beyond lawful actions in order to further their cause. You may recall that the ring leaders of this criminality were sentenced to 51 years in prison a few years ago. Indeed since then another organiser of animal rights criminality was sentenced to 10 years in prison. I reflect that if the police service had perhaps paid more attention to the development of this protest movement, we could have better protected the victims of this domestic extremism and even prevented law-abiding citizens from being drawn into a life of crime. Let me be clear, in no way do I equate the actions of you or your colleagues and associates with these domestic extremists, however the organisers of the Climate Camp protest would not formally come forward to engage with us and plan the event because the overall objective was unlawful. [Emphasis added]

^{xix} Ibid, Conclusions and Recommendations, page 57, para 1.

^{xx} Ibid, page 59, para 18.

^{xxi} Ibid, page 59, para 16.

^{xxii} Ibid, page 60, para 24.

^{xxiii} Ibid, page 61, para 26.

^{xxiv} Public Order Act 1986 permits a senior officer to impose conditions on public assemblies where he reasonably believes a) it may result in serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community, or B) the purpose of the persons organising it is the intimidation of other with a view to compelling them not to do an act they have a right to do, or to do an act they have the right not to do. The conditions are limited to the numbers of people who may take part, the location of the assembly and its maximum duration. To knowingly fail to comply with a condition is a criminal offence. [Emphasis added.] It needs to be emphasised that, like all UK laws, it needs to be read in the context of the European Convention of Human Rights.

^{xxv} Ibid, page 58, para 6.

^{xxvi} Ibid, page 62, para 32.

^{xxvii} Email through website of City of London Police professional standards on 10 March 2009, email 23 March 2009 to Met professional standards, forwarded by them to Operation Command Unit on 24 March 2009, no response received.

^{xxviii} Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

^{xxix} The last report of the Legal Team on the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth gave numerous examples of the methods used to obtain protestors' names and addresses.

^{xxx} Ibid, page 63, para 33.

^{xxxi} Ibid, page 60, para 25.

^{xxxi} Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

^{xxxi} When considering the behavior of the police in a public order context. It may be useful to recall the Stanford prison experiment. A study of the psychological effects of becoming a prisoner or prison guard. The experiment was conducted in 1971 by a team of researchers led by Psychology Professor Philip Zimbardo at Stanford University. Twenty-four undergraduates were selected out of 70 to play the roles of both guards and prisoners and live in a mock prison in the basement of the Stanford psychology building. Prisoners and guards rapidly adapted to their roles, stepping beyond the boundaries of what had been predicted and leading to dangerous and psychologically damaging situations. One-third of the guards were judged to have exhibited "genuine" sadistic tendencies, while many prisoners were emotionally traumatized and two had to be removed from the experiment early. Zimbardo concluded that both prisoners and guards had become too grossly absorbed in their roles and terminated the experiment after six days. Other research has confirmed these findings. The unavoidable conclusions from social psychology are that sadism attaches to the role rather than the individual. Relying on the police to exercise

individual self restraint and discipline in situations like these is therefore wholly unrealistic. Guaranteed access to independent witnesses like media and legal observers, widespread presence of cameras and full police visibility - including large numbers enabling easy identification - are likely to prove a far more effective mechanism for ensuring accountability than exhortations to better training or discipline.