

Statement of Mr Stuart Croy
First Statement
Party: Claimant
Dated: 2 July 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO: KB-2024-BHM-000107

KING'S BENCH DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY

BETWEEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Claimant

-and-

- (1) MX JOEL BUTTERWORTH (also known as RIVER BUTTERWORTH (they/them))**
- (5) Non Students/staff: PERSONS UNKNOWN, BEING PERSONS IN AN ENCAMPMENT OCCUPATION OF LAND ON THE JUBILEE CAMPUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY STUDENTS, STAFF OR EMPLOYEES OF THE CLAIMANT**
- (6) Students/Staff: PERSONS UNKNOWN, BEING PERSONS IN AN ENCAMPMENT OCCUPATION OF LAND ON THE JUBILEE CAMPUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM WITHOUT THE CLAIMANT'S LICENCE OR CONSENT WHO ARE CURRENTLY STUDENTS, STAFF OR EMPLOYEES OF THE CLAIMANT**

Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MR STUART CROY

I, Stuart Croy of The University of Nottingham, University Park Campus, Nottingham NG7 2RD will state as follows:

- 1. I am the Head of Security at The University of Nottingham ("the University") based at Hallward Library Security Office, University of Nottingham, University Park Campus, Nottingham NG7 2RD.**
- 2. I am authorised to make this Witness Statement on behalf of the University in support of the University's claim for an Order for possession as set out in the Claim Form and Particulars of Claim.**

3. Insofar as the facts and matters referred to herein are within my own knowledge, they are true and in so far as they are not within my own direct knowledge they are true to the best of my information and belief, acquired in the course of acting in my capacity as Head of Security at the University.
4. On the 28th and 29th June 2024, the University of Nottingham held major Open Days with the number expected to attend as around 20,000 people.
5. The University Security Service is tasked with traffic management and car parking for visitors and their vehicles attending these Open Days.
6. The deployment of personnel for these Open Days was 24 University of Nottingham Security staff and 8 Show Security staff.
7. Protests were expected on 28th and 29th June and therefore a plan was put in place to protect key areas of the University such as Engineering Science and Learning Centre, ESLC and the L buildings as these were being used by the Faculty of Engineering for their Open Day stands and exhibits and talks, and also to protect our community and visitors.
8. On Friday 28th June 2024, security staff were engaged throughout the day with masked protestors who entered these buildings, they were allowed to remain in the ESLC and protest but were asked on grounds of Health and Safety to leave the L buildings. Some talks in ESLC were disrupted by protestors and the protestors were asked to leave by security.
9. On Saturday 29th June security observed similar protest tactics to the previous day but protestors were more challenging in not wanting to leave buildings or talks and challenged security staff as to why they were prevented from entering them.
10. The "funeral march" protest started at the rear of Portland, protestors then walked through Portland Building and onto the front steps up East Drive to Trent Building, then back down East Drive onto the Science Site and to ESLC.
11. Security denied access to ESLC to the protestors with security staff at all entrances.
12. During this period, the protestors were chanting and giving speeches. At Trent Building and at ESLC they used a loudhailer and a Portable amplifier. Both of these were directed toward security staff from a distance of as close as 3 feet. The level of noise was so loud that it was painful to the ears.
13. On the 29th June there were an unknown number of people likely to attend to protest. We planned to deploy security staff to supervise this protest but those staff would otherwise have been required to support the Open Day as a whole. This impacted the delivery of the Open Day traffic management and car parking because 20 of the 24 University of Nottingham Security staff on duty had to be re tasked to

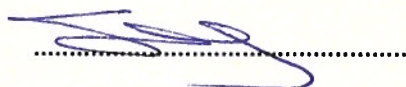
the protest. This left 4 University Security staff and 12 Showsec as we brought in an additional 4 of them to help.

14. The protestors were more forceful in the way in which they approached visitors on 29th June, shouting at visitors, sometimes using loud hailers if visitors did not wish to stop and talk to them. Some visitors were scared to the point of shaking and crying. Jewish visitors were visibly shaken by the protestors. A particular theme was the number of the protestors wearing balaclavas and other face coverings and the volume of the shouting and chanting on the loudhailer and amp. Our visitors did not feel safe.
15. For the first time in the 30 years I have worked in Security at the University I felt that the security staff deployed to ESLC on the 29th June were at risk of harm from protestors. This is on two fronts - the level of sound being directed at them and also because it felt like there was real hatred being directed towards them.
16. It felt intimidating for staff under my control, I have a duty of care to them, and it felt very unsafe for a period of time. For the last part of the external protest four of the protestors came down from the upper floor of the ESLC and stood directly behind the four members of security who were on the front door. They held up banners so we could not see the Officers. I moved to the side so I could keep sight of this but at this point I was the most fearful for their safety.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of Court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:



Stuart Croy

Position: **Head of Security**
The University of Nottingham

Dated **2 July 2024**