

SYP - Operation Quito

This text is taken from the publicly released documents from Operation Quito, the police operation that oversees tree protests.

Campaigner Marcus Combie has poured over the documents. This compilation of his tweets reveals the most shocking bits. The original screenshots have been enlarged throughout for easier reading.

Start here >

Reference: FS50740136



10. In line with her usual practice, the Commissioner contacted SYP on 17 May 2018 to highlight the outstanding response. She requested that SYP respond to the request within 10 working days. The correspondence was neither acknowledged nor responded to.
11. The complainant advised the Commissioner on 18 July 2018 that the response to part [3] of the request remained outstanding.
12. Given the substantial delay in responding to the request, the Commissioner is of the view that a decision notice, considering SYP's compliance with the FOIA, is appropriate in this case.

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested information about discussions that South Yorkshire Police had with various third parties relating to the forcible removal of individuals protesting the removal of trees within the city of Sheffield.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that South Yorkshire Police ("SYP") failed to respond to the entirety of the request within 20 working days and has therefore breached Section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act ("the FOIA").
3. The Commissioner requires SYP to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
 - Issue a substantive response, under the FOIA, to part [3] of the request.
4. SYP must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · Jul 30

ICO finds against South Yorkshire police in prolonged delay about extensive communications between Amey and South Yorkshire Police

Bonus: SYP ignored the ICO's first polite reminder.

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h

Why was SYP passing on information to SCC (silver) about people arrested for their investigations.

Were we not told and assured this type of thing would not happen.

60,26-feb-2018 12: [REDACTED] 1669 - WE WILL MEET PRISONER TRANSPORT [REDACTED]
XS01I AWARE

61,26-feb-2018 13:08, OPERATOR [REDACTED] XS01I - XS01C - 447 CURRENTLY ON SHARROW LANE

62,26-feb-2018 13:18, OPERATOR [REDACTED] 15777 - LAST VEHICLE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SAFETY ZONE AND THEY ARE NOW GOING BACK UP.

63,26-feb-2018 13:19, OPERATOR [REDACTED] BRZ 1 - AMEY ARE CUTTING THE 1ST TREE NOW.

64,26-feb-2018 13:29, OPERATOR [REDACTED] XS01I - CAN WE CONFIRM WITH SILVER THEIR IS A MEMBER FROM THE INVESTIGATION TEAM HERE TO TAKE DETAILS.
WE WILL DIRECT THEM TO ATTEND AT EITHER SNIG HILL OR WOODSEATS. I HAVE LIAISED WITH DS PENN WHO HAS ASKED IF WE CAN GIVE INC NO AND BRIEF DETAILS BE OBTAINED
504 AWARE

The redacted text throughout is taken from the South Yorkshire Police's [Operation Quito documents](#), available on their website.

The following pages are transcripts of radio conversations between police operatives.

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h

South Yorkshire Fire brigade did the right thing and refused to come remove a protestor on behalf of Amey as requested by SYP.

71,26-feb-2018 13:57,OPERATOR [REDACTED] I HAVE CONTACTED FIRE AND ASKED IF THEY CAN ATTEND AT [REDACTED] THORNSETT ROAD REGARDING THIS PROTESTOR [REDACTED] AND COME BACK TO US SHORTLY.

72,26-feb-2018 13:58,OPERATOR [REDACTED] SLM SENT TO ATLAS REGARDING REQUEST FOR CRU IN CASE FIRE RECONTACT

73,26-feb-2018 14:00,OPERATOR [REDACTED] FIRE HAVE RECONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO MANAGER AND THEY HAVE REFUSED TO ATTEND.

74,26-feb-2018 14:14,OPERATOR [REDACTED] 3758 - PLT HAVE SPOKEN TO THE PROTESTOR HAS STATED THAT HE WILL ONLY COME DOWN WAY IF WE LEAVE.

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Marcus Comble @fawkes_marcus · 15h

Sheffield City Council (silver) advised police protestors could be arrested on private property.

@libertyhq @StagNews2017

36,27-feb-2018 10:29,OPERATOR [REDACTED] PLT - 2 ZONES BEING ERECTED - 1 FROM YESTERDAY
5 PROTESTERS INSIDE THE ZONE WHERE THE NEXT TREE - UPPER ZONE ALREADY HAS 4
PROTESTERS IN - CANNOT HEAR WHAT THEY ARE SAYING BUT FROM ARM GESTURES EXPECT SOME
ISSUES

37,27-feb-2018 10:32,OPERATOR [REDACTED] SILVER CONFIRMS IF IN PRIVATE GARDEN CAN STILL BE
ARRESTED IF OBSTRUCTING

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ARRESTED IF OBSTRUCTING

Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h

The involvement of Sheffield City Council (Silver) with decisions on handling protestors is really shocking.

I thought these types of matters were for the police, not local authority.

48,27-feb-2018 11:11,OPERATOR [REDACTED] PLT - 1 PROTESTOR HAS BEEN REMOVED

49,27-feb-2018 11:15,OPERATOR [REDACTED] XS01C - DIRECTED TO SHARROW VIEW

50,27-feb-2018 11:17,OPERATOR [REDACTED] BRZ1 - 1 INDIVIDUAL - BEEN TAKEN OUT IF HE GIVES DETAILS CAN WE AUTHORISE A SECT 35 SO THEY CANT COME BACK TO AREA

51,27-feb-2018 11:17,OPERATOR [REDACTED] SILVER CONSIDERING

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h



Amey vehicles obstructing the highway for residents, this same offense protestors were arrested for.

Police response: Nothing.

APPROX 6 PROTESTERS INCLUDING MAIN PEOPLE .

52,05-mar-2018 10:56, OPERATOR [REDACTED] PLT 1577
THERE IS AN ISSUES WITH VEHICLES USING ABBEYDALE CRES - THE VEHICLES ON THE OPERATION ARE CAUSING
BLOCKAGE FOR RESIDENTS.

BRZ 1 AWARE .

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h

How much access did South Yorkshire Police give to Amey and SCC of activists details.

100,13-mar-2018 12:44,OPERATOR [REDACTED] LATE ENTRY

MALE CALLED [REDACTED] ASKING IF THE COUNCIL OR AMEY ARE INSIDE SILVER .

SILVER - CAN CONFIRM THIS CAN BE PASSED TO AMEY AND THE COUNCIL ARE INSIDE AS JOINT PARTNERSHIP OPERATION

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 13h

The MAST child services team from Sheffield Council did attend protests. Give known about by South Yorkshire Police part of co-ordinated action.

This was one of the more shocking incidents.

@tobyfoster I know you reported on this after getting leaked emails.

104,05-mar-2018 13:46,OPERATOR [REDACTED] 401 - TWO PEOPLE TYING THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER - ONE HIGHWAY SIDE AND ONE PRIVATE SIDE .
105,05-mar-2018 13:46,OPERATOR [REDACTED] 401 - NOW THREE PEOPLE TYING THEMSELVES TOGETHER .
106,05-mar-2018 13:48,OPERATOR [REDACTED] BRZ 1 TAC - [REDACTED] HAS JUST BEEN BLOCKING THE AMEY TRUCKS
107,05-mar-2018 13:49,OPERATOR [REDACTED] 1371 - I HAVE MAST TEAM WITH ME - WILL ATTEND AT BRZ 1'S LOCATION

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Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 12h

Even more clear, protestor information flowed between Amey, South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Council.

This is from tactical operations document.

Investigation

A Crime Bronze will oversee the investigative elements, including any investigation into complaints of assault by protestors. The Crime Bronze will deploy a suitably trained member of staff to the scene to deal with any investigative concerns from the public.

Command Actions

- A multi-agency Silver will operate during the duration of this operation to ensure the flow of information and intelligence.

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Command Actions

- A multi-agency Silver will operate during the duration of this operation to ensure the flow of information and intelligence.

Safeguarding

Taken from the Operation Quito Tactical Plan
- *page 53*

Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 19h

South Yorkshire Police tried to make it so that Wildlife Crime Officers purposefully did not respond to requests by protestors.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2018 18:52
To: Enquiries <enquiries@southyorks.pnn.police.uk>; Wildlife Crime Officers
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Incident [REDACTED] follow up

This is not for the attention of wildlife crime officers. I would ask that no officer replies to this member of the public.
It is linked to the Sheffield Tree Protest and will need a corporate response. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hi, is this something you are able to assist with many thanks

Communications Support Desk
South Yorkshire police
[REDACTED]

This heavily redacted email comes from the SYP Communications Support Desk

10th March 2018 18:52

This is not for the attention of wildlife crime officers. I would ask that no officer replies to this member of the public. It is linked to the Sheffield Tree Protests and will need a corporate response.

Pinned Tweet

Marcus Combie @rawkus_marcus · 9h

I'm off to bed.

But SYP effectively let the plaintiff of a civil court case be a member on a joint agency task force with the flow of information and intelligence between the two.

While leading an operating against the defendants

That's pretty sobering.

This isnt Sheffield