



Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham B1 1BB
E-mail: Majid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk

16th January 2026

ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk

Dear Assistant Chief Constable Parnell

Protests outside depots causing severe disruption to waste services

I write regarding the protests that have taken place in recent days at Atlas, Perry Barr and Smithfield depots. These protests have seen the council's bin lorries unable to leave the depots, delaying our collection of rubbish across the city.

The intelligence that we have shows that there will be a minimum of three protests per week, which would mean that the council loses a substantial portion of productivity each week – making it impossible to guarantee a weekly collection to every household in the city.

Applying the Ziegler Ruling, officers have been waiting for the protests to last for three hours (from 06:00 to 09:00) before taking any action, and even then the lorries have only been able to get out one at a time. When this occurs, the council cannot carry out all planned collections that day.

However, Ziegler states that the rights of protesters must be balanced against the disruption caused, and that each case is unique, requiring a careful assessment of facts rather than a blanket rule. I would strongly argue that the substantial impact these protests are having on the people and communities of Birmingham should be taken into account and I write to ask what action your force can take to ensure that these protesters are moved on quickly so that our operations can continue unaffected.

The people of Birmingham expect the law to be upheld and the highway to be kept free of obstruction. I am happy to meet at your convenience to discuss how we rapidly progress this very issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Majid Mahmood".

Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Birmingham City Council



Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham B1 1BB
E-mail: Majid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk

16th January 2026

shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Home Secretary

Protests outside depots causing severe disruption to waste services

I write regarding the protests that have taken place in recent days at Atlas, Perry Barr and Smithfield depots. These protests have seen the council's bin lorries unable to leave the depots, delaying our collection of rubbish across the city.

The intelligence that we have shows that there will be a minimum of three protests per week, which would mean that the council loses a substantial portion of productivity each week – making it impossible to guarantee a weekly collection to every household in the city.

Applying the Ziegler Ruling, West Midlands Police have been waiting for the protests to last for three hours (from 06:00 to 09:00) before taking any action, and even then the lorries have only been able to get out one at a time. When this occurs, the council cannot carry out all planned collections that day.

However, Ziegler states that the rights of protesters must be balanced against the disruption caused, and that each case is unique, requiring a careful assessment of facts rather than a blanket rule.

This is unacceptable to the people of Birmingham, and I wanted to alert you to the fact that I have written to Assistant Chief Constable Ian Parnell to ask what action his force can take to ensure that these protestors are moved on quickly so that our operations can continue unaffected.

I will continue to keep you briefed on this issue, and any response that I receive from the police on what action they may be able to take.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Majid Mahmood'.

Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Birmingham City Council

Monday 07:39

Good morning Jack

I hope you are well.

Just to advise we have protestors at Perry Barr this morning. Logged at 6:09. As normal would it be okay to have support with our vehicles be released at 9:09?

[B](#) > [News](#) > [Midlands News](#) > [West Midlands Police](#)

Anger as police 'fail to stop' Birmingham bin protestors blocking rubbish trucks out of depots

The long running bins dispute has triggered a new wave of confrontations at the depot gates - with council chiefs frustrated with the police response



NEWS By [Jane Haynes](#) Politics & People Editor
13:43, 20 Jan 2026 | Updated 18:08, 20 Jan 2026



📷 One of the early morning protests held outside a bins depot in the city, blocking lorries getting out (Image: Birmingham Worker Solidarity coalition)

[West Midlands Police](#) have been urged to intervene quickly to stop protestors 'blocking' bin lorries getting out of depots across the city amid escalating frustration and anger over delays to collections.

City council chiefs have formally written to [police leaders](#) pressing them to act to remove protestors standing in the road amid claims they 'stand by' to watch them block traffic for 'three hours every day'.

They fear they will be unable to maintain weekly collections if they don't.

READ MORE: [Bin strike protestors cause 'hours of delays' at](#)

don't.

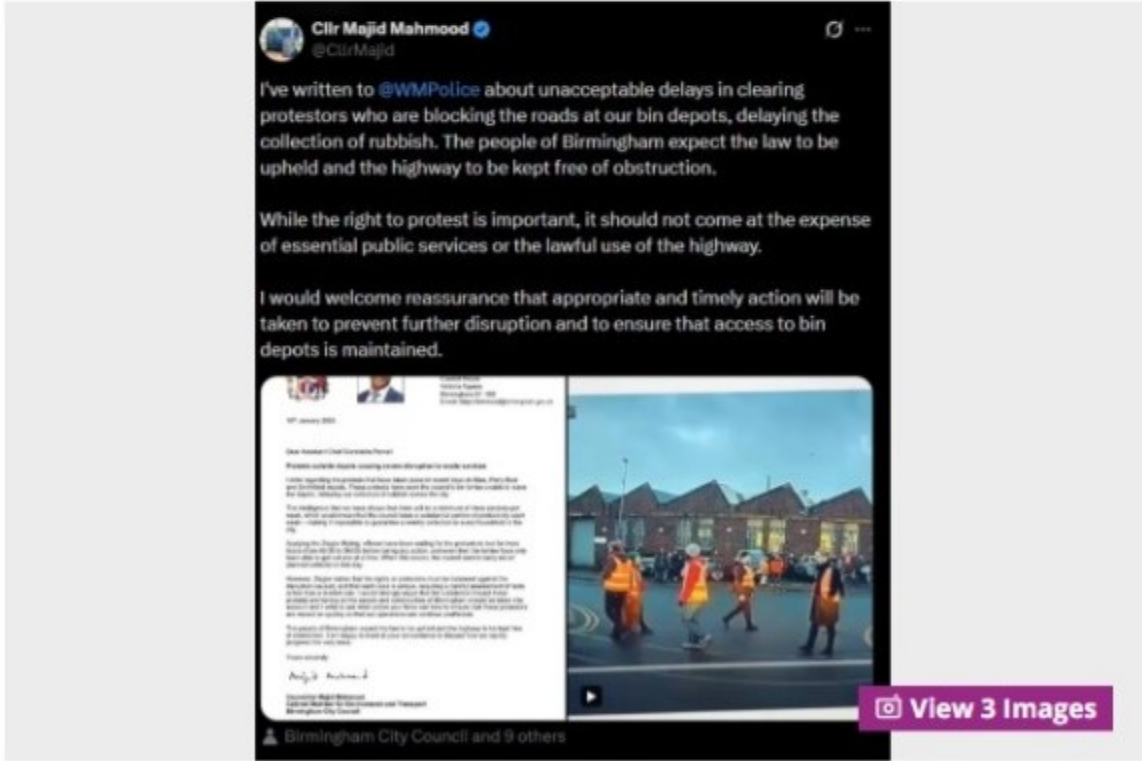
READ MORE: Bin strike protestors cause 'hours of delays' at Birmingham depots

One Labour councillor has publicly slated the police's inaction, warning a handful of people were being allowed to dictate when bins were collected, with the police 'standing by'. Cllr Marcus Bernasconi, Lab, North **Edgbaston**, spoke angrily of the impact.

He pointed the finger at former Chief Constable Craig Guildford for 'refusing to instruct police to clear the streets outside the depots'.

The issue has been taken up now by Cllr Majid Mahmood, the Labour cabinet member responsible for waste services.

In a tweet and letter posted this week, he said: "The people of **Birmingham** expect the law to be upheld and the highway to be kept free of obstruction."



Cllr Majid Mahmood's tweet pressing for police action (Image:)

He was speaking amid new protests involving support organisations turning out in solidarity with striking bin workers over the 13 month dispute.

A legal precedent, called the Ziegler Ruling, allows for 'deliberate, obstructive protest' as a lawful excuse for blocking the highway. It dates back a Supreme Court hearing in 2021 over anti-arms protests, and means the courts and police have to consider 'human rights to protest' when deciding if disruptive action is criminal.

In a letter, Cllr Mahmood says police locally have interpreted the ruling by 'waiting for the protests to last for three hours before taking any action, and even then the lorries have only been able to get out one at a time.'


He claims this approach is allowing for widescale disruption and makes it 'impossible' for the council to collect all the rubbish it needs to.

In his letter he says the council expects 'a minimum of three protests a week' to persist into the spring as the dispute continues into its 13th month.



Majid Mahmood, Birmingham City Council's cabinet member for environment, who has penned a letter to the police (Image: Alexander Brock)



 Majid Mahmood, Birmingham City Council's cabinet member for environment, who has penned a letter to the police (Image: Alexander Brock)

If allowed to continue, the disruption would 'make it impossible to guarantee a weekly collection to every household in the city,' his letter warned.

But he argues in his letter to police that they do have the power and responsibility to step in over the 'unacceptable' delays involved and the impact on the city.

He says the Ziegler Ruling makes clear that 'the rights of protestors must be balanced against the disruption caused and each case is unique'.

"I would strongly argue that the substantial impact these protests are having on people and communities of Birmingham should be taken into account and I write to ask what action your force can take to ensure that these protestors are moved on quickly so that our operations can continue unaffected."

He offered to meet officers to discuss how to 'rapidly progress this issue'.

It is not the first time the council and police have been at odds over how to handle disruption at the bin depots. Earlier in the strike, striking binmen were regularly halting lorries by walking slowly in front of them. The chaos that ensued, with thousands of tonnes piling up across the city, triggered a public health emergency incident.

Since then striking union members have been subject to the rules of a high court injunction. However, we understand the restrictions linked to the injunction do not cover non union members or support organisations.

West Midlands Police, responding this evening, said: "We are aware of the letter from Councillor Mahmood which has recently been posted on X.

"We continue to have a police presence at depots as and when required. Birmingham City Council was granted an injunction last year to manage the impact of this disruption.

Article continues below

SIMILAR ARTICLES TO THIS

POWERED BY  mantis



West Midlands Police Chief
Constable Craig Guildford retires
'with immediate effect'

B  18 COMMENTS



Birmingham MP blasts 'witch hunt'
as Chief Constable retires following
Maccabi fans ban

B  9 COMMENTS

11:50

5G 48

< 1020



Paul >



iMessage
Mon 19 Jan at 07:42

Good morning Paul it's Chris Smiles here from Birmingham City Council. I apologise for contacting you but I just wanted to check if Jack was about today as I am looking to contact my equivalent Silver regarding the ongoing bin strikes

Jack is on
Leave this week, back next Monday.

Thanks Paul - is there a substitute whilst he is away? I don't want to keep ringing, (and annoying) everyone else

Mon 19 Jan at 11:25

That would be the silver commander - Mick Wilkinson who has your number.

Thanks Paul can you ask him to ring me/or share his number so I can catch up regarding this
iMessage and the ongoing protests



iMessage



11:50

5G 48%



1020

Mon 11:25

PM



That would be the
commander - Michael
Paul
who has your number.

Thanks Paul can you ask him to
ring me/or share his number so
I can catch up regarding this
morning and the ongoing
protests

He has your number

Paul. I understand BCC may
well have frustrated WMP over
the last 72 hours but I'm not
sure I'm the enemy here?

I met with Jack and Ian on
Tuesday and a number of
commitments were made
which unfortunately have not
been honoured.

I'm really not trying to be
difficult I would just like to
speak to a Silver command so
we can have an operational
discussions

Regards

Chris - that was not my
intention when I sent the



Message read it back I



can see how it could be read
that way. Apologies

11:50

5G 48



1020

PM



Paul >

Chris - that was not my intention when I sent the message. Having read it back I can see how it could be read that way. Apologies

I'll call you

Chris - I ve just tried to call - call me back when you can

Wednesday 06:07

Morning Paul

In the absence of Jack and Ian and Karl not being aware of the situation I am just logging this with yourself as per the protocol we have been asked to follow:

I am formally confirming that we are blocked in our depot at Atlas Works.

This has been logged and a crime reference number will follow.

Regards



iMessage



FH

Crime reference numbers as

11:50

5G 48



1020

Regards

Chris

PM



Paul

Crime reference numbers as per the protocol:

Atlas Works - 430

Perry Barr - 468

Edited

Chris - I will contact the Silver commander on duty who can give you a call.

Chris Silver has been contacted and will be in touch

Chris can you switch your phone on our Force Incident Manager is trying to call.

1 Reply

Chris the FIM James Littlehailes has your number and will be sending some Birmingham staff to assess

Chris can you switch your phone on our Force Incident Manager is trying to call.



iMessage



Hi Paul, this is my number...
different one for me. Can you pass it onto the FIM?

FHÍ

11:50

5G 48



1020

PM



Paul

Hi Paul—this is my number, apologies if you have a different one for me. Can you pass it onto the FIM?

Chris I have passed this number - [REDACTED]

My number is [REDACTED]

Please can you share this number with him? Thank you

Will do.

Thank you

Hi Paul sorry to chase, I just want to check the FIM is still alright to call? I am keen to try and get deployed at 9:00 am

Thanks again

Resources are on route. FIM is still ok for a call.

Thanks Paul I have a contact



iMessage



Read Wednesday

FHî

11:50

5G 48



1020

PM



Paul ›

Chris I have passed this number - [REDACTED]

My number is [REDACTED]

Please can you share this number with him? Thank you

Will do.

Thank you

Hi Paul sorry to chase, I just want to check the FIM is still alright to call? I am keen to try and get deployed at 9:00 am

Thanks again

Resources are on route. FIM is still ok for a call.

Thanks Paul. I have a contact, I'll leave you to enjoy your day

Read Wednesday

Cheers Chris



iMessage



11:49

5G 48



1020



James Littlehailes >

Text Message • SMS
Wednesday 10:45

Hi James thank you for your time today. We eventually got all of our vehicles deployed.

For completeness please keep this as my number.

Best regards

Chris

Glad to be of help, I'm on again tomorrow morning if required
Thanks
James Littlehailes



Text Message • SMS



11:51

5G 48



1020

**Karl** ›

Text Message • SMS
Tue 20 Jan at 05:57

Good morning Karl

I can confirm we have received blockades this morning, as per my email yesterday.

Please could we have a call to discuss tactics?

Regards

Chris

Wednesday 06:05

Good morning Karl

As per the protocol I have been asked to follow, I am formally confirming that we are blocked in our depot at Atlas Works.

This has been logged and a crime reference number will follow.

Regards

Chris



Text Message • SMS



FHJ:

11:51

< 1020

Good morning Karl

5G 48

I can confirm we have received
blockade this morning, as per
my email yesterday.

Please could we have a call to
discuss tactics?

Regards

Chris

Wednesday 06:05

Good morning Karl

As per the protocol I have been
asked to follow, I am formally
confirming that we are blocked
in our depot at Atlas Works.

This has been logged and a
crime reference number will
follow.

Regards

Chris

Crime reference numbers as
per the protocol:

Atlas Works - 430

Perry Barr - 468



Text Message • SMS



From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 12:36
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

Hi Karen,

Rob and I would be happy to meet with Karl, I would prefer to do it face-to-face, we will come to yourselves.

If you could let me know what time works I will ensure my diary is free.

Thank you

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



OFFICIAL

From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 11:34
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker
Importance: High

Chris,

That hasn't been communicated to me, but I think that there is certainly value in us having a catch up regardless, so I'll ask Karen (our support officer) to arrange either a Teams or face to face, so whatever you prefer really.

Karen,

Can you put something in the dairy for a catch up with Chris please and can we avoid my duty day please (Thursdays).

Regards

Karl



Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101

W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 10:41
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

Hi Karl,

Thank you for your email.

I have been advised that Supt Jack Hadley had based over the management of *Operation Dusker* locally to Birmingham Police? I may be wrong but that was the feedback I got when I tried to speak to Jack and Mike yesterday.

Does this mean in the current circumstances I speak to Jack in the first instance?

Apologies for not understanding.

Thank you

Best regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



OFFICIAL

From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 09:03
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

You don't often get email from karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)
Chris,

I am told that Supt Jack Hadley is the Silver for the operation and ACC O’Hara the Gold.

I believe that we are escalating the staffing levels due to the recent events and you will be receiving some lines of communication within the near future.

Kind regards

Karl



Karl Thomas

Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101

W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Karl Thomas
Sent: 20 January 2026 07:08
To: 'Christopher Smiles' <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Robert Edmondson' <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker
Importance: High

Chris,

Nice to hear from you.

Can you advise me where that came from about me being the Silver contact for Op Dusker as I haven’t been told this nor have I had a handover or briefing. Once I am in receipt of that information, I will find out what is going on and come back to you.

Kind regards

Karl



Karl Thomas

Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101

W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2026 16:58
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: [External]: Operation Dusker

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Good afternoon Karl,

I have been advised by colleagues within West Midlands police that you are now my Silver contact for Operation Dusker, (blockading of waste collection vehicles at the City Council depots).

I was hoping we might be able to have a chat to discuss the operational plan for this and forthcoming weeks. I am being advised through my intelligence that this is likely to continue indefinitely so it would be helpful if we could be aligned on a proposed response.

Thank you

Regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



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Yasmin Ahmad

Subject: RE: [External]: Re: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026

OFFICIAL

From: Ian Parnell <ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2026 14:20
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Jack Hadley <jack.hadley@westmidlands.police.uk>; Thomas Joyce <thomas.joyce@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>; Mike O'Hara <mike.ohara@westmidlands.police.uk>; Daniel Bluck <daniel.bluck@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Re: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026

Dear Chris and Rob

Apologies, I have been away from the office since we met last week and today is my first day back in. The same has been true of Supt Hadley who is also out of office.

I have also received a letter from Councillor Mahmood which I will respond to before the end of this week.

At our recent meeting we agreed that:

- 1) Calls from BCC to WMP via 101 should continue to be made where there is protest activity, pickets or issues at your sites which causes disruption.
- 2) Jack and Chris would develop a Memorandum of Understanding between WMP and BCC which should focus on:
 - a. Evidential capture of protest activity and any criminal offences
 - b. Operational guidance for senior police / BCC staff on scene
 - c. High level overview of criminal offences / thresholds / relevant case law eg. Ziegler
- 3) Intelligence should be shared in respect of the forthcoming mega picket on 30/01/26
- 4) BCC could consider signage at sights regarding, CCTV, potential prosecution and behavioural nudges to support positive behaviour from those who may be inclined to commit offences.

Can I also offer Ch Insp Chris Grandison as your local contact for all operational matters.

@Thomas Joyce I will copy you into my response to Councillor Mahmood.

I will also ask Jack and Chris to review the MOU from a tactical perspective.

Many thanks.....Ian



Ian Parnell BA(Hons), MSc

Assistant Chief Constable - CT Policing, ROCU & NABIS
West Midlands Police

T: 0121 609 1780

M: 07471 438 390

W: westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 January 2026 10:25

To: Jack Hadley <jack.hadley@westmidlands.police.uk>; Ian Parnell <ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>

Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: [External]: Re: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026

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Good morning gents

Please could you share the minutes from Tuesday's meeting?

Thank you

Best regards

Chris

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Christopher Smiles

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 3:02:23 PM

To: Jack Hadley <jack.hadley@westmidlands.police.uk>; ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk
<ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>

Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026

Good afternoon gents,

Thank you for your time on Tuesday.

As promised please find attached a Memorandum of Understanding for how both parties will manage blockading at the City Council depots. Conscious that colleagues from West Midlands Police need an opportunity to review and comment on the document, however given the sensitivity around the subject could I ask that we aim to have the document agreed by close of business tomorrow?

Happy to discuss via a call if that would be more useful.

Thank you

Regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



From: Christopher Smiles

Sent: 15 January 2026 11:10

To: Jack Hadley <jack.hadley@westmidlands.police.uk>; 'Ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk' <Ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>

Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026

Good morning gents,

I am conscious that there is a requirement within the Council to report daily deployment through the Sitrep report. As such I thought it might be useful to provide a summary and confirm how the blockade was managed today.

Blockading was reported at Smithfield depot at 06:04 and at Atlas Depot at 06:09. The incidents were immediately reported to via 111 and crime references were provided. The police response was swift and at both depots we police were on site within the hour.

At Smithfield the police managed to 'negotiate' with the protestors that vehicles would be allowed to leave every 15 minutes. The protestors adhered to this deal and allowed vehicles to leave every 15 minutes. Police remained on site until 09:00 whereby they facilitated the release of all vehicles in accordance with the Ziegler 'agreement' that protestors can only be on site for 3 hours.

At Atlas the police attended but were not able to negotiate the early release of the vehicles with the protestors. We asked if the vehicles could be released at 09:00 but the police advised they were not prepared to support this request and agreed with the protestors that vehicles would be released at 10:00 as the protestors had to leave at this time. I did escalate the situation and explain I had agreed the 3-hour timeline with Silver Command. Unfortunately, the police on site at Atlas were not prepared to support this request.

Any questions or concerns with my summary please do let me know.

Thank you

Regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



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From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2026 13:01
To: Christopher Smiles
Cc: Karl Thomas
Subject: Operation Dusker

Afternoon Chris,

As I understand it, you and colleagues met earlier this month with Assistant Chief Constable Ian Parnell regarding a number of vulnerabilities identified within the current court injunction regulating picketing and protest activity linked to the Birmingham waste service industrial dispute.

My understanding was that Birmingham City Council would then explore these matters through their legal team and, where appropriate, formally re-approach the court to seek amendment or clarification of the injunction in order to address those identified gaps.

I appreciate we have a meeting scheduled for 4 February, however I just wanted to briefly touch base to understand whether that process has progressed and whether there have been any developments that I could feed into the Chief Constable’s office in advance.

Many thanks.



CI Chris Grandison | 20911
BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods
West Midlands Police

Mob: 07387097540
Web: west-midlands.police.uk

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From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 21 January 2026 12:11
To: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: FW: [External]: Operation Dusker







Chris,

I need you at this meeting as very important even if you have to juggle things around please.

Regards

Karl



Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police
M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101
W: westmidlands.police.uk
Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk
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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 January 2026 11:50
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>; Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: Re: [External]: Operation Dusker

Hi Karen

Please can we go for 10:00 am on the 4th February?

Best regards

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 11:05:25 AM
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>; Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

Karen,

Can you also invite Chris Grandison to the meeting.

Chris Smiles,

Chief Inspector Chris Grandison is the Operational lead for Birmingham.

Regards

Karl



Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police
M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101
W: westmidlands.police.uk
Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 12:36
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

Hi Karen,

Rob and I would be happy to meet with Karl, I would prefer to do it face-to-face, we will come to yourselves.

If you could let me know what time works I will ensure my diary is free.

Thank you

Chris Smiles
Head of Waste Logistics & Collections
Street Scene Service
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



OFFICIAL

From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 11:34
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Karen Henson <karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker
Importance: High

Chris,

That hasn't been communicated to me, but I think that there is certainly value in us having a catch up regardless, so I'll ask Karen (our support officer) to arrange either a Teams or face to face, so whatever you prefer really.

Karen,

Can you put something in the dairy for a catch up with Chris please and can we avoid my duty day please (Thursdays).

Regards

Karl









Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101
W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 10:41
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

Hi Karl,

Thank you for your email.

I have been advised that Supt Jack Hadley had based over the management of *Operation Dusker* locally to Birmingham Police? I may be wrong but that was the feedback I got when I tried to speak to Jack and Mike yesterday.

Does this mean in the current circumstances I speak to Jack in the first instance?

Apologies for not understanding.

Thank you

Best regards

Chris Smiles
Head of Waste Logistics & Collections
Street Scene Service
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911





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OFFICIAL

From: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2026 09:03
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>

Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>; Mike Woods <mike.woods@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

You don't often get email from karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)
Chris,

I am told that Supt Jack Hadley is the Silver for the operation and ACC O’Hara the Gold.

I believe that we are escalating the staffing levels due to the recent events and you will be receiving some lines of communication within the near future.

Kind regards

Karl



Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101
W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Karl Thomas
Sent: 20 January 2026 07:08
To: 'Christopher Smiles' <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Robert Edmondson' <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Operation Dusker
Importance: High

Chris,

Nice to hear from you.

Can you advise me where that came from about me being the Silver contact for Op Dusker as I haven’t been told this nor have I had a handover or briefing. Once I am in receipt of that information, I will find out what is going on and come back to you.

Kind regards

Karl



Karl Thomas
Superintendent City West
BH LPA Command Team – Neighbourhoods & Response
West Midlands Police

M: 07384 235786 **T:** 101
W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – karen.henson1@westmidlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2026 16:58
To: Karl Thomas <karl.thomas@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: [External]: Operation Dusker

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Good afternoon Karl,

I have been advised by colleagues within West Midlands police that you are now my Silver contact for Operation Dusker, (blockading of waste collection vehicles at the City Council depots).

I was hoping we might be able to have a chat to discuss the operational plan for this and forthcoming weeks. I am being advised through my intelligence that this is likely to continue indefinitely so it would be helpful if we could be aligned on a proposed response.

Thank you

Regards

Chris Smiles
Head of Waste Logistics & Collections
Street Scene Service
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

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Ian Parnell
Assistant Chief Constable (ROCU & CT)

POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Lloyd House
PO Box 52
Colmore Circus Queensway
BIRMINGHAM
West Midlands
B4 6NQ

Direct Telephone: 101
Switchboard:
Facsimile:

23 January 2026

Dear Councillor Mahmood,

Thank you for your email dated 16th January 2026 whereby you outline your concerns relating to Birmingham City Council bin lorries being unable to leave depots.

West Midlands Police continue to work closely with Birmingham City Council to mitigate disruption to both employees and members of the public, while appropriately balancing the right to lawful picketing and industrial action. I met with colleagues from Birmingham City Council last week to discuss the ongoing concerns that council officers had raised.

Chief Inspector Grandison from Birmingham Local Policing Area is the designated local policing lead and will continue liaising with Birmingham City Council to ensure that any response to emerging issues remains proportionate and appropriate. He is also responsible for ensuring the appropriate deployment of policing resources, based on current information and intelligence.

Further meetings are planned for next week which will include council officers. If you think a meeting with a meeting between ourselves would be productive, please let me know and we can make suitable arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Parnell', written over a horizontal line.

Ian Parnell
Assistant Chief Constable
West Midlands Police

Yasmin Ahmad

Subject: FW: Op Dusker updated plan

OFFICIAL

From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 23 January 2026 15:31
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Op Dusker updated plan

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Hi Chris,

I've just picked up your text's but I worry these will get missed and not actioned.

With annual leave, other commitments, and me generally working 0800 hours, we will need to manage this through a different route into WMP.

I think now we have been clear that WMP will attend as required. You and your staff should be able to make the request without it having to go through a senior leader , and I do not think my direct oversight is necessary at this stage. That said, it would be helpful to understand any resource implications. When Jack Hadley was doing it , he was also looking through the lense of on call public order so he could give direction .

For now, could you use the Force Decision Makers contact number 08445 896674, they are based in the control room and will have access to the necessary resources.

If you can then share a brief weekly situation report with me, we can review and discuss this further at our meeting next month.

Thanks and have a good weekend



CI Chris Grandison | 20911

BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods
West Midlands Police

Mob: 07387097540

Web: west-midlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 23 January 2026 12:59

To:

Cc:

Subject: Op Dusker updated plan

Colleagues ,

Following my earlier correspondence and in light of recent external commentary from Councillor Majid Mahmood, Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, I wanted to provide clarity around the agreed operational approach for Op Dusker.

Response Inspectors and the FIMs remain the first operational decision makers on the ground, with their role being critical in ensuring the approach is applied consistently and with confidence.

The current resourcing model comprises four Birmingham officers and as well as one sergeant and two officers from the wider force on a rota basis, secured via a 90-day notice. We have, at times, stood these down a week in advance where demand has allowed, and that may happen again as the operational picture allows. Where resources have been stood down, Response officers will form the default attendance if there is a genuine requirement for police presence. Please ensure this is clearly understood and covered within your briefings.

Our officer expectations, which should form the basis of local briefings, are as follows:

WMP will attend each time officers are requested.

On arrival, officers must:

- Meet the site manager at the gatehouse for a handover and briefing.
- Engage with protesters to understand intentions and maintain dialogue.

Officers must balance the right to protest with Birmingham City Council's right to conduct lawful business. Officers should remain mindful of the Ziegler ruling, which confirms that protest is a protected right and that some disruption is lawful. However, disruption must remain proportionate.

Once disruption becomes excessive, prolonged, or prevents lawful business from continuing, police

intervention becomes justified.

It has been agreed with Birmingham City Council that three hours is a general benchmark for acceptable disruption before officers should begin actively considering escalation options.

Throughout engagement, officers must:

- Use the five-step appeal process.
- Capture evidence of disruption, behaviour and engagement on BWV.

Once the tipping point is reached:

- Officers must move to the final appeal stage, and this must be recorded on BWV.

Where offences are identified, officers must consider appropriate action, including obstruction of the highway, aggravated trespass or breach of the peace. Disposal may include summons or arrest, depending on the circumstances.

I would ask that any meaningful developments, emerging risks, flashpoints or changes to the operational picture are fed back to me so that I can maintain appropriate oversight.

We have a meeting with Birmingham City Council next month to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between WMP and BCC and I'll update you all with any meaningful changes to the above.

BH Planning, please ensure this approach remains embedded within nomination and briefing processes.

Insp's - please ensure you staff are appropriately briefed and understand the expectations and guidance .

Thanks All



CI Chris Grandison | 20911

BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods
West Midlands Police

Mob: [07387097540](tel:07387097540)

Web: [west-midlands.police.uk](https://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

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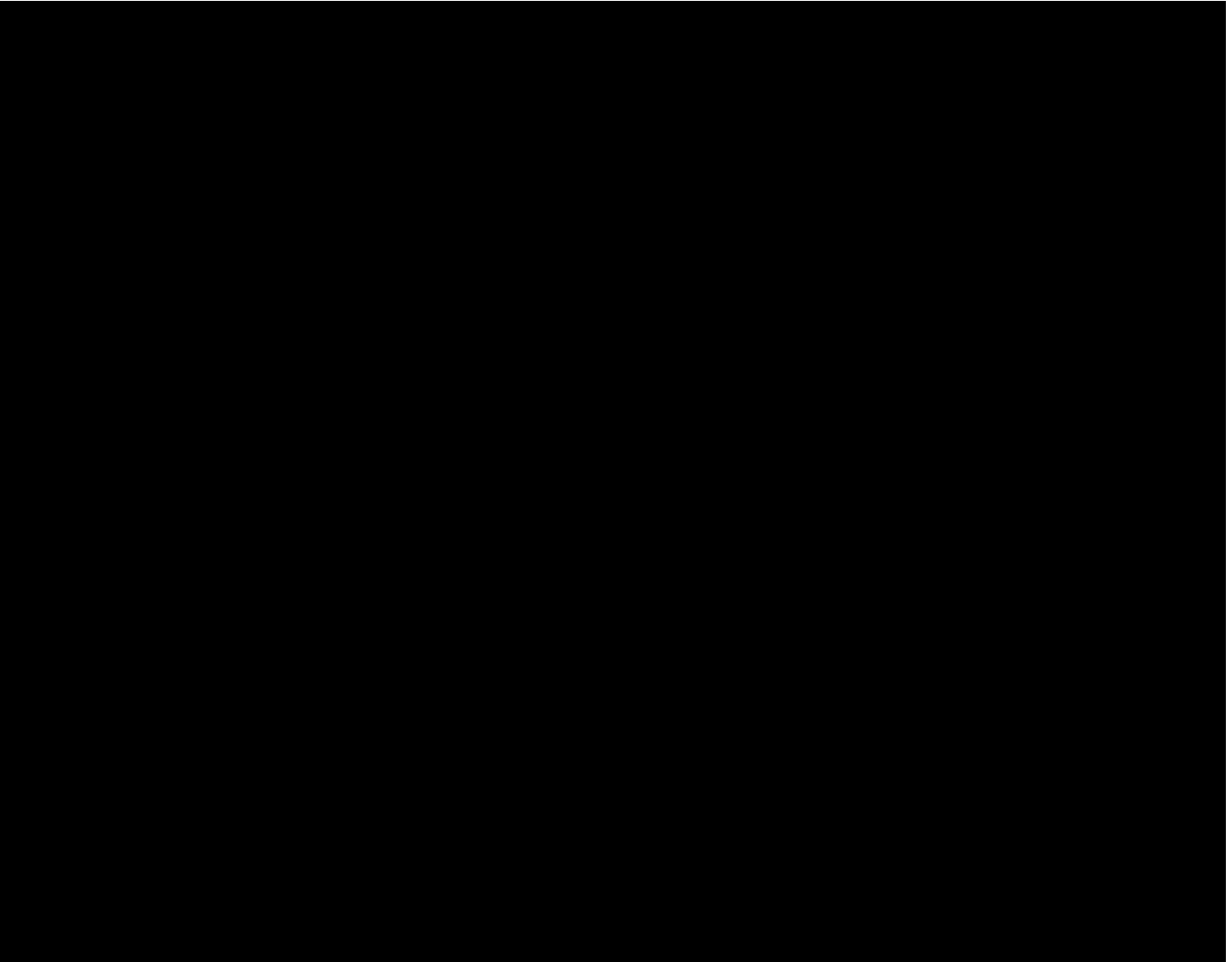


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OFFICIAL

From: Christopher Smiles
Sent: 29 January 2026 17:37
To: 'Christopher Grandison' <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Op Dusker updated plan [DLAP-UKMATTERS.FID6611373]

Hi Chris

Thank you for this.

I recognise these names as BCC employees.

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



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From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>

Sent: 29 January 2026 06:30

To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [External]: Op Dusker updated plan [DLAP-UKMATTERS.FID6611373]

Hi Chris,

As requested, a review of the police logs across those dates identifies the following names. Frustratingly, it's not clear what their involvement was, although it appears they may have been attempting to cause disruption and were being vocal.

Definitely something to box off in our meeting and within the MOU, so I can ensure the briefing pack issued to officers is clear around the level of detail we want as I appreciate some of the below wont be helpful.

Although I havent done any intelligence checks on the below names I imagine they will have a limited to non existence footprint on our systems . After you have cross refernced these against BCC records if you need any further information on any of the below , let me know and I can task out some checks .

All known details obtained at the time have been listed below for each individual.

1. 1. Shane Edwards [REDACTED]

2. 2. Thomas John Histon [REDACTED]

3. 3. [REDACTED]

4. 4. [REDACTED]

5. 5. [REDACTED]

3. 3. Dean Davies [REDACTED]

4. 4. [REDACTED]

5. 5. [REDACTED]

6. 6. [REDACTED]

4. 4. Maurice Thornton [REDACTED]

5. 5. [REDACTED]

5. 5. Leon Yates [REDACTED]

6. 6. [REDACTED]

6. 6. Dave Miller

7. 7. [REDACTED]

7. 7. Peter Randle [REDACTED]

8. 8. [REDACTED]

8. 8. William Owen [REDACTED]

9. 9. [REDACTED]

10. 10. [REDACTED]

9. 9. Luke Dolton [REDACTED]

10. 10. Cameron Baines

11. 11. [REDACTED]

11. 11. Justin Hiller

12. 12. [REDACTED]

13. 13.

14. 14. Stuart Pritchard [REDACTED]

13. 13. Richard MITCHELL (20/191278/25 – relates to April 2025 and names an individual Richard MITCHELL 'attempting to cause' disruption and being vocal)

Thanks

CI Chris Grandison | 20911
BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods
West Midlands Police




Mob: [07387097540](tel:07387097540)

Web: west-midlands.police.uk

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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:35:22 pm
To: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Subject: RE: [External]: Op Dusker updated plan [DLAP-UKMATTERS.FID6611373]

Good afternoon Chris,

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm that we have been blockaded on the following dates:

- * September – 17
- * October – 17
- * November – 25
- * December – 5, 11, 12 and 19
- * January – 8, 12, 15, 19, 21, 27 and 28

If WMP have anything they are able to share regarding the identifies of the individuals involved that would be really helpful. BCC did make a request to the police at Perry Barr and Atlas on the day of the event but unfortunately we were not able to get any information on these occasions.

Thank you

Best regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

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OFFICIAL

From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Sent: 27 January 2026 10:09
To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [External]: RE: Op Dusker updated plan [DLAP-UKMATTERS.FID6611373]

Morning Chris ,

To ensure I can give you the correct detail .

What site and on what date do we need me to pull the data from please?

As soon as I've got that I'll make every effort to come back to you with the detail today , if not then tomorrow.

Thanks



CI Chris Grandison | 20911
BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods
West Midlands Police
Mob: 07387097540
Web: west-midlands.police.uk
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From: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 January 2026 12:38
To: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>
Cc: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: [External]: RE: Op Dusker updated plan [DLAP-UKMATTERS.FID6611373]

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Good afternoon Chris,

Thank you for your email. I also note that you wrote to me on the 22nd January 2025 at 13:00 and as yet I have not replied. I have therefore taken the liberty of responding to both emails within this correspondence.

Meeting with Assistant Chief Constable Ian Parnell

The City Council does not agree that an outcome of the meeting was that Birmingham City Council would explore 'a number of vulnerabilities' identified within the current injunction regulating to picketing and protest activity. The City Council has always been clear on what is covered under the injunction as has the Court including during the recent contempt proceedings. We have now reached a point however where the recent 'protesting' activity is making it increasingly difficult for the Council to maintain service to the residents of Birmingham who have paid for and are entitled to have their household waste collected. To that end, the Council is now considering a further application to

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the court brought against 'persons unknown' who are responsible for the blockading of Council vehicles. With that in mind, I am asking you to provide the names of any individuals that the police is aware of and who have been involved in that activity. This is so that those persons can be added as named Defendants to any application that the Council makes for an injunction to restrain the current unsustainable levels of 'protest' activity. We anticipate issuing proceedings within the next 7 days and therefore an urgent response would be appreciated.

Email 23rd January 2026

I note from your internal email that you reference 'agreed operational approach for Op Dusker'. The City Council would like to reiterate the position it stated at the meeting on the 13th January 2026 which is that 'We do not agree that 3 hours is a general benchmark'.

At the meeting we challenged **the police's position** and were advised by ACC Ian Parnell that it was the **police's** interpretation of Ziegler that 3 hours was reasonable. For the avoidance of doubt the City Council has not agreed to a three-hour delay in operational deployment nor does it agree that 3 hours is reasonable in the circumstances noting the serious risk to the public's health and safety if the City's waste is not collected.

The Memorandum of Understanding that has been shared with WMP was drafted as a last resort to reflect the imposition of the **police's** interpretation of Ziegler and does not reflect the City Council's position which was and remains that this is unreasonable. It is noted that, despite a commitment from WMP to do so, no comments have been received.

Finally, the City Council is disappointed that WMP has chosen to adopt a revised operational response to Op. Dusker. It is the City Council's belief that such is the severity of the situation that the well-established senior leadership response should be maintained. The Council would urge WMP to reconsider their position given the potential impact blockading the City Council refuse collection vehicles will have.

Regards

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

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From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>

Sent: 23 January 2026 15:31

To: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Op Dusker updated plan

You don't often get email from christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Chris,

I've just picked up your text's but I worry these will get missed and not actioned.

With annual leave, other commitments, and me generally working 0800 hours, we will need to manage this through a different route into WMP.

I think now we have been clear that WMP will attend as required. You and your staff should be able to make the request without it having to go through a senior leader , and I do not think my direct oversight is necessary at this stage. That said, it would be helpful to understand any resource implications. When Jack Hadley was doing it , he was also looking through the lense of on call public order so he could give direction .

For now, could you use the Force Decision Makers contact number 08445 896674, they are based in the control room and will have access to the necessary resources.

If you can then share a brief weekly situation report with me, we can review and discuss this further at our meeting next month.

Thanks and have a good weekend



CI Chris Grandison | 20911

BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods

West Midlands Police

Mob: 07387097540

Web: west-midlands.police.uk

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[Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Christopher Grandison <christopher.grandison@westmidlands.police.uk>

Sent: 23 January 2026 12:59

To:

Cc:

Subject: Op Dusker updated plan

Colleagues ,

Following my earlier correspondence and in light of recent external commentary from Councillor Majid Mahmood, Birmingham City Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, I wanted to provide clarity around the agreed operational approach for Op Dusker.

Response Inspectors and the FIMs remain the first operational decision makers on the ground, with their role being critical in ensuring the approach is applied consistently and with confidence.

The current resourcing model comprises four Birmingham officers and as well as one sergeant and two officers from the wider force on a rota basis, secured via a 90-day notice. We have, at times, stood these down a week in advance where demand has allowed, and that may happen again as the operational picture allows. Where resources have been stood down, Response officers will form the default attendance if there is a genuine requirement for police presence. Please ensure this is clearly understood and covered within your briefings.

Our officer expectations, which should form the basis of local briefings, are as follows:

WMP will attend each time officers are requested.

On arrival, officers must:

- Meet the site manager at the gatehouse for a handover and briefing.
- Engage with protesters to understand intentions and maintain dialogue.

Officers must balance the right to protest with Birmingham City Council’s right to conduct lawful business. Officers should remain mindful of the Ziegler ruling, which confirms that protest is a protected right and that some disruption is lawful. However, disruption must remain proportionate.

Once disruption becomes excessive, prolonged, or prevents lawful business from continuing, police intervention becomes justified.

It has been agreed with Birmingham City Council that three hours is a general benchmark for acceptable disruption before officers should begin actively considering escalation options.

Throughout engagement, officers must:

- Use the five-step appeal process.
- Capture evidence of disruption, behaviour and engagement on BWV.

Once the tipping point is reached:

- Officers must move to the final appeal stage, and this must be recorded on BWV.

Where offences are identified, officers must consider appropriate action, including obstruction of the highway, aggravated trespass or breach of the peace. Disposal may include summons or arrest, depending on the circumstances.

I would ask that any meaningful developments, emerging risks, flashpoints or changes to the operational picture are fed back to me so

that I can maintain appropriate oversight.

We have a meeting with Birmingham City Council next month to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between WMP and BCC and I'll update you all with any meaningful changes to the above.

BH Planning, please ensure this approach remains embedded within nomination and briefing processes.

Insp's - please ensure you staff are appropriately briefed and understand the expectations and guidance .

Thanks All



CI Chris Grandison | 20911

BH LPA Command Team – BW Neighbourhoods

West Midlands Police

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From: [Christopher Smiles](#)

Sent: Sun, 1 Feb 2026 17:17:30

To: [Euan Bruce](#) [Euan Bruce](#)

Cc: [Deborah Carter-Hughes](#) [Bruce Carr KC](#) [Anna Greenley](#)

Subject: FW: [External]: Response to Protestors

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

****EXTERNAL****

Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



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From: Ian Parnell <ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>

Sent: 29 January 2026 18:04

To: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>

Cc: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Deborah Carter-Hughes <Deborah.Carter-Hughes@birmingham.gov.uk>; Waqar Ahmed <Waqar.Ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: [External]: Response to Protestors

Evening Rob

The team have been working on the MOU today and we hope to share our views asap. I will ask the Staff Office to send over the notes of the meeting asap.

I have been in London for the past 3 days, but I am back in the midlands now so will assume command of the megapicket in the morning. We are just finalising our tactical plan.

Best wishes.....Ian



Ian Parnell BA(Hons), MSc

Assistant Chief Constable - CT Policing, ROCU & NABIS
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From: Robert Edmondson <Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk>

Sent: 29 January 2026 16:40

To: Ian Parnell <ian.parnell@westmidlands.police.uk>

Cc: Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>; Deborah Carter-Hughes <Deborah.Carter-Hughes@birmingham.gov.uk>; Waqar Ahmed <Waqar.Ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk>

Subject: [External]: Response to Protestors

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Afternoon Ian,

Thank you for taking time out to speak this morning regarding the challenges we are facing with protestors and activists blocking vehicles at our waste depots.

I have set out our record of this morning events below.

1. 1. Sergeant Adam Hill contacted Chris to discuss the police response this morning. From that conversation it was clear that he was not fully briefed or aware of the history of the ongoing dispute. He suggested that we had 2 factions of protestors today, those from Unite and the other been angry residents who have not received a bin collection. I would strongly question this view as it was evident from the CCTV footage we have obtained that banners linking the protestors to the socialist workers party are visible as well as observing several pro-Palestinian flags.
2. 2. He also advised that the police would be moving away from the council's agreed timeline of 3 hours protesting. He was advised that was not the council position and this has previously been challenged. He then informed us that he had negotiated a position with the protestors which effectively would see vehicles realised at intervals of 15 minutes between 6am and 7am, 10 minutes between 7am and 8am and 5 minutes after 9am. This position was not enforced at Perry Barr or Smithfield, and it only was adhered to at Atlas because of the local management.
3. 3. Adam then changed this stance and indicated that all vehicles would be deployed at 10am, with a rationale given that protestors are allowed to cause reasonable disruption!! When pressed on the interpretation of reasonable disruption, Sergeant Hill could not advise on the detail.

It should be noted that Smithfield did deploy at 10am, however this was down to the management team getting an alternative exit opened which caught the protestors off guard.

Can I also advise that Perry Barr depot did not achieve deployment until 10.50am, which over 5 hours after the

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original request for police support was logged.

Following our meeting on the 13th January 2026, Chris sent the MOU on the 15th January setting out our understanding of this meeting making particular reference to an agreed way of managing the protestors. This was based on the conversation we had Jack and yourself setting out the logic of using Zeigler as a guide to managing the protestors.

We await a response to this correspondence and minutes of that meeting.

I appreciate that this is a challenging situation but can we have the agreed position from the police in terms of what we can expect in managing the protestors and deploying the waste collection vehicles.

Robert Edmondson

Director, Waste & Street Scene
07739078889

Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

PA: Hana X Begum



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