

## Yasmin Ahmad

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**From:** Christopher Smiles <Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 January 2026 12:57  
**To:** Deborah Carter-Hughes  
**Subject:** FW: Blockading at Birmingham City Council Depot - 15th January 2026  
**Attachments:** Memorandum of Understanding.docx

### Chris Smiles

Head of Waste Logistics & Collections

#### Street Scene Service

City Operations Directorate

Birmingham City Council, PO Box 2122 B3 3BU

07983 567911



OFFICIAL

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**From:** Christopher Smiles  
**Sent:** 15 January 2026 15:02  
**To:** 'Jack Hadley' [REDACTED]

**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**

FHF

FGF

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 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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**

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

07983 567911



**Memorandum of Understanding – Management of industrial action at Birmingham  
City Council Street Scene Waste Department**

The memorandum of understanding is designed to provide clear guidance as to how both parties will interact with each other when incidents of blockading by protestors are reported at the City Councils waste depots.

The three depots from which the City Council deploys waste collection operations are:

- Atlas Depot, 170 to 172 Kings Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2AS
- Perry Barr Depot, Holford Drive, Birmingham, B42 2TU
- Smithfield Festival Site, Barford Street, Birmingham, B5 6AH

Waste collection operations are deployed from between 04:00 – 07:00. Whilst there can be some slight variation with collection crew numbers each day generally the following are deployed from each depot:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Atlas	40	40	40	40	40
Perry Barr	24	24	24	24	24
Smithfield	33	33	33	33	33
	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>

**Incidents of blockading**

Should there be an incident of blockading **Birmingham City Council** will:

- Record the incident via 111
- Once recorded via 111 log the incident with the Silver Command for Operation Dusker
- Record the time the blockading commenced
- Record whom the group are, (should they identify themselves)
- Record identities of the individuals, (if they are provided)
- Record any threats that have been made by the protestors
- Record any comments that have been made by the protestors
- Provide copies of CCTV upon request

Should there be an incident of blockading **West Midlands Police** will:

- Respond to the 111 incident and deploy officers as soon as reasonably practicable

- Respond to the log with Silver Command and confirm that the response will be managed in accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding*
- Ensure that once a maximum of three hours of blockading has occurred all operational vehicles are deployed within 10 minutes.

Should there be an incident of blockading **both parties commit to ensuring that:**

- All operational vehicles are deployed within, as a maximum **190 minutes** of the blockade commencing.
- The start time for the blockade will be taken from when Birmingham City Council contacts the police or when protestors are recorded on CCTV whichever is the earliest first record that there is a protestor on site.
- The City Council will provide evidence statements and/or CCTV to verify the time the blockade commenced should it be deemed necessary.



**Councillor Majid Mahmood**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Council House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham B1 1BB  
E-mail: [Majid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Majid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

[REDACTED]

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

**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](mailto:Majid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

[shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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

**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



[View 3 Images](#)

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.

FHJ

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

on't.

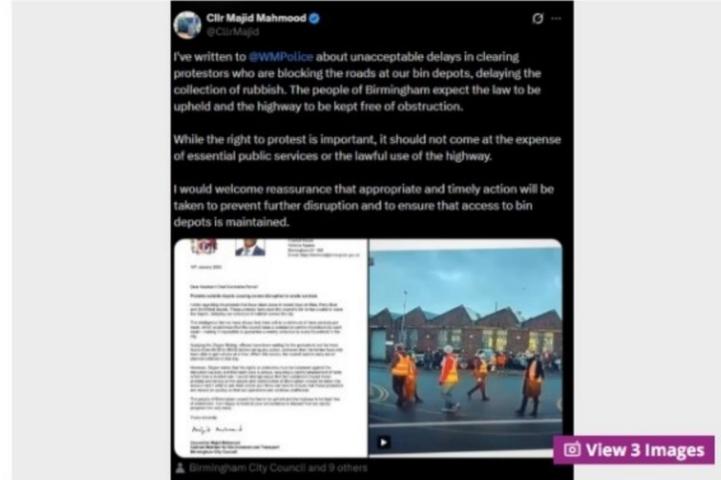
**READ MORE: Bin strike protestors cause 'hours of delays' at Birmingham depots**

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

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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 of the ongoing protests

FIG



FHG

11:50

don't want to keep ringing,  
(and annoying) everyone else. 5G 48%

< 1020

Mon 11:25



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

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can see how it could be read that way. Apologies

11:50

5G 48

< 1020

Regard **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

Chris



iMessage **FI I**



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Crime reference numbers as

11:50

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follow.  
Regards

Chris



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 Littlehales 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 FI



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

FHÍ

staff to assess

11:50

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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

FI



FH

Read Wednesday

11:50

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

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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 FIM



FIM

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



FI Ì

FHì

< 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



FI J

FHU:

11:51

Good morning Karl

5G 48

< 1020

I can see we have received blocked 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

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**From:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 January 2026 12:36

**To:** Karl Thomas [REDACTED] Karen Henson [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Mike Woods [REDACTED]

**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

 Birmingham  
City Council



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[@BhamCityCouncil](https://twitter.com/BhamCityCouncil)

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**From:** Karl Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 January 2026 11:34  
**To:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Karen Henson [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Mike Woods [REDACTED]  
**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 diary 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

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M: [REDACTED] T: 101

W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – [REDACTED]

Working in partnership, making communities safer



**From:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 January 2026 10:41

**To:** Karl Thomas [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Mike Woods [REDACTED]

**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

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**From:** Karl Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 January 2026 09:03  
**To:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Mike Woods [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [External]: Operation Dusker

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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:** [REDACTED] **T:** 101

**W:** westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – [REDACTED]

**Working in partnership, making communities safer**



**From:** Karl Thomas  
**Sent:** 20 January 2026 07:08  
**To:** 'Christopher Smiles' <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** 'Robert Edmondson' <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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: [REDACTED] T: 101

W: westmidlands.police.uk

Secretary – Karen Henson – [REDACTED]

Working in partnership, making communities safer



**From:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 19 January 2026 16:58

**To:** Karl Thomas [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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**

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

OFFICIAL

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**From:** Ian Parnell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2026 14:20  
**To:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Jack Hadley [REDACTED]; Thomas Joyce [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk)>; Christopher Grandison [REDACTED]; Mike O'Hara [REDACTED] Daniel Bluck [REDACTED]  
**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:** [REDACTED]  
**M:** [REDACTED]  
**W:** [westmidlands.police.uk](http://westmidlands.police.uk)

FÍ J

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Working in partnership, making communities safer



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**From:** Christopher Smiles <[Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Smiles@birmingham.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 21 January 2026 10:25

**To:** Jack Hadley [REDACTED] Ian Parnell [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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

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**From:** Christopher Smiles

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

**To:** Jack Hadley [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Robert Edmondson <[Robert.Edmondson@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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

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