

On behalf of: Claimant
By: Deborah Carter-Hughes
No: Fourth
Exhibit: DCH4
Date: 28 April 2026

Claim No: KB-2026-BHM-000043

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KINGS BENCH DIVISION**

BETWEEN:

(1) BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Claimant

- and -

(1) PERSONS UNKNOWN

Defendant

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
DEBORAH CARTER-HUGHES**

I, DEBORAH CARTER-HUGHES, of The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Assistant Director Legal Services – Corporate Law & Deputy Monitoring Officer at Birmingham City Council (**Council**). I have been in this role since January 2024. I am responsible for leading the Council's internal legal team, ensuring a robust and innovative legal services and lead on complex and high-profile cases for the Council as appropriate. I have been the lead internal legal adviser on the waste strikes since January 2025.
2. I am a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales. I qualified as a solicitor in 2008 and have worked in local government since 2006. Prior to starting at the Council, I was Executive Director at Pathfinder Legal Services, a local authority owned law firm providing legal advice to four founder local authorities.

3. This is the fourth witness statement I have provided in respect of this claim. Unless indicated otherwise, definitions used in my earlier statements are adopted here.
4. This statement has been prepared with the assistance of the solicitors for the Claimant, DLA Piper UK LLP (**DLA**), through the exchange of emails and videoconferencing meetings. I understand that due to the nature of the application being made by the Council, there is a requirement on myself and the Council to provide a full and frank disclosure in respect of the situation. In preparation of this statement, I have sought to comply with this duty.
5. I am duly authorised by the Claimant to make this witness statement on behalf of the Claimant in relation to the ongoing protests affecting the Council's waste collection service for the city and the Council's application for an extension of the injunction against the Defendants in respect of the same.
6. The facts and matters set out in this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. They are within my own knowledge unless otherwise stated. Where I refer to information supplied by others, the source of the information is identified.
7. In making this witness statement I do not intend to waive privilege in any respect and am not authorised by the Claimant to do so.
8. There is now produced and shown to me an accompanying exhibit marked "**Exhibit DCH4**". These documents are identified in this witness statement by references to the page numbers in the form "**[DCH4/tab no]**".
9. The Council was granted an injunction against the Defendants by an order of Mr Justice Pepperall dated 20 February 2026 (sealed on 23 February 2026) (**Existing Injunction**). The Existing Injunction expires on the earliest of 20 May 2026, final determination of the claim or further order. On 20 April 2026, the Council made an application for the Existing Injunction to be extended until 1 January 2028 (**Extension Application**).
10. This statement should be read alongside my previous three statements. The first two set out the events following the Council's initial application,

including the steps taken by the Council to notify the Defendants of the original application and hearing. The third sets out the basis for the Extension Application. The purpose of this statement is to outline the steps taken by the Council to notify Persons Unknown of the Extension Application and the hearing which has been listed for 30 April 2026, as required by the Order of HHJ Kelly of 23 April 2026 (**Hearing Order**).

Notification of the Injunction Application

11. After the Extension Application was submitted, I instructed DLA to notify Unite and other organisations who have been identified as having potential contact with the Defendants of the Extension Application.
12. On 20 April 2026, DLA sent an email to Sharon Graham, Annmarie Kilcline, and Onay Kasab at Unite, copying Neil Todd and William Webb of Thompsons Solicitors [**DCH4/1**]. The email notified Unite of the Extension Application and included copies of the application notice, draft order and certificate of urgency. A link was also provided to my Third Witness statement and the Second Witness Statement of Carol Culley provided in support of the Extension Application. The same detail was separately sent to Strike Map [**DCH4/2**], the Socialist Workers Party [**DCH4/3**], Reel News [**DCH4/4**] and Birmingham Socialist Party [**DCH4/5**].
13. I also instructed colleagues to upload the application notice, draft order, certificate of urgency, witness statements and supporting exhibit to the Council's Webpage with all of the documentation regarding the claim. This was done on 21 April 2026, and the landing page of the Webpage was also updated to make it clear that the Extension Application had been filed and that the associated documentation was available for review. The supporting videos were also uploaded to YouTube, with access available via the Webpage.
14. I also instructed the Depot managers to place updated notices in place at each of the Depots in the form at [**DCH4/6**]. The following replies confirm that this was done at each Depot:
 - 14.1 Lifford Lane Depot: Email from Siobhan Stubbs to Dean Smith [**DCH4/7**], attaching the photo at [**DCH4/8**].

- 14.2 Smithfield Depot: Email from Dean Smith [DCH4/9], attaching the photos at [DCH4/10–12].
- 14.3 Atlas Depot: Email from David Miller [DCH4/13], attaching the photos at [DCH4/14–15].
- 14.4 Perry Barr Depot: Email from Richard Smith to confirm [DCH4/16].
15. I instructed DLA to appoint process servers to hand out leaflets at each of the Depots follow the Extension Application being submitted. The process servers who were appointed were Tremark Associates Limited (332 York Road, Leeds, LS9 9DN) (**Tremark**). On 21 April 2026, Saab Samra of Tremark attended Perry Barr Depot, Smithfields Depot, Atlas Depot and Lifford Lane Depot. There were approximately 10 Defendants at Perry Barr Depot, and Mr Samra advised them of the notice. However, one of the Defendants took charge of the 25 notices Mr Samra had in his hand and put them into a bin. There were no Defendants at Smithfield Depot, so Mr Samra placed a copy of the notice in a clear plastic sleeve and affixed it to the railings on site. There were Defendants at Atlas Depot and Lifford Lane Depot, and Mr Samra left notices at the sites in the presence of some of the Defendants. Mr Samra has produced a witness statement detailing the steps he took [DCH4/17].
16. On 21 April 2026, DLA also hand-delivered a letter Unite's head office which enclosed hard copies of the documentation submitted as part of the Extension Application [DCH4/18]. The photos at [DCH4/19-20] show the letter being delivered.
17. On 22 April 2026, the Council posted on its social media that it had applied for the Existing Injunction to be extended. The Council posted on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and BlueSky [DCH4/21].

Notification of Hearing

18. On 23 April 2026, DLA received the Hearing Order that listed the Application for hearing at 10:30am on 30 April 2026 at Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre, The Priory Courts, 33 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6DS (**Hearing**).

19. On 23 April 2026, DLA sent separate emails to Sharon Graham, Onay Kasab and Annmarie Kilcline of Unite, copying Neil Todd and William Webb of Thompsons Solicitors [DCH4/22], Strike Map [DCH4/23], the Socialist Workers Party [DCH4/24], Reel News [DCH4/25] and Birmingham Socialist Party [DCH4/26] to notify them of the Hearing and provide the Hearing Order.
20. On 24 April 2026, DLA also hand delivered a letter in the form at [DCH4/27] to Unite's head office and enclosed a copy of the Hearing Order. The photos at [DCH4/28-29] show the letter being delivered.
21. I instructed DLA to appoint Tremark to hand out leaflets confirming the details of the Hearing in the form at [DCH4/30] at each of the Depots. This was conducted by Saab Samra who provided a statement [DCH4/31] confirming that:
 - a. At Perry Barr he provided leaflets which were put in the bin by those in attendance.
 - b. At Smithfields the leaflets were affixed in a clear plastic sleeve to the railings at the site.
 - c. At Atlas copies of the notice were provided to those on site who were aggressive towards him and videoed him during his visit.
 - d. At Lifford Lane leaflets were placed on the floor next to those in attendance, who suggested that Mr Samra was harassing them by providing them with the notices.
22. Notices in the form at [DCH4/30] and copies of the Hearing Order and application documents were put up at each of the Depots in place of the notice put up on 24 April 2026. I received the following confirmation from each Depot to confirm that the documents had been affixed at each Depot:
 - a. Lifford Lane Depot: Email from Siobhan Stubbs [DCH4/32]. One of the documents was accidentally ripped by construction, so it was reprinted and attached again as confirmed by email from Siobhan Stubbs [DCH4/33].

- b. Smithfield Depot: Email from Shirely Goddard to Dean Smith [DCH4/34] attaching the photo at [DCH4/35]. The documents were not all originally affixed, and the later email from Shirely Goddard at [DCH4/36] attaching the photos at [DCH4/37-40] confirmed that all of the documents were affixed.
 - c. Atlas Depot: Email from David Miller [DCH4/41] attaching photos at [DCH4/42-43] to confirm that the Hearing Order and a notice has been put up. A further email was then sent by David to confirm that the supporting application documents had been added [DCH4/44] with accompanying photos [DCH4/45-46].
 - d. Perry Barr Depot: Email from Serena Grant [DCH4/47].
23. On 24 April 2026, the Hearing Order was also uploaded to the Webpage, and the landing page of the Webpage was updated to include details of the Hearing.
24. The Council also posted the details of the Hearing on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Blue Sky on 24 April 2026 [DCH4/48].

Monitoring of Notices

25. I have continued to be provided with updates from each of the Depots about the monitoring of the notices and whether copies of the relevant notices remain in place:
26. Week commencing 20 April 2026
- a. Smithfield and Lifford Lane: Dean Smith monitored the notices between 20 April 2026 and 24 April 2026 and there were no issues to report [DCH4/49].
 - b. Atlas: David Miller monitored the notices between 20 April 2026 and 25 April 2026 and there were no issues to report [DCH4/50].
 - c. Perry Barr: Checks were undertaken by Richard Smith through the working week with the exception of 23 April when the notices were not checked due to annual leave [DCH4/51]. However, the documents remained in place the following day.

Further notifications and steps

27. I am providing this statement to the Court as ordered by 28 April 2026. However, in advance of the Hearing steps will also be taken to ensure that the hearing bundle, Council's Skeleton Submissions and this statement are uploaded to the Webpage ahead of the Hearing.
28. I have also instructed DLA to instruct Tremark to undertake the following:
 - a. Further leafleting at each of the depots on 29 April to provide confirmation that the hearing bundle, Council's Skeleton Submissions and this statement are uploaded to the Webpage ahead of the Hearing. A notice has been prepared for this purpose **[DCH4/52]**.
 - b. Further leafleting at each of the depots on 30 April to ensure that Defendants are aware of the hearing taking place that day. A notice has been prepared for this purpose **[DCH4/53]**.
 - c. Send emails to Unite, Reel News, StrikeMap, the Socialist Worker Party and Birmingham Socialist Party to provide a link to the hearing bundles and this additional statement.

Industrial Dispute


29. On 27 April 2026, an announcement was made by the Council Leader John Cotton in his capacity as Leader of the local Labour Party Group indicating that a deal is in sight between the Labour Party Group and Unite to resolve the industrial dispute. The proposal would, if the Labour Party Group are re-elected allow an offer to be made by the Council which can be put to Unite members for agreement.
30. Any proposal which has been discussed by the Labour Party Group with Unite has not been approved by the appropriate decision-making processes in the Council. It would be subject to the Labour Party Group being re-elected, with the Leader and Cabinet of Council not being confirmed until 19 May, and could then take several months thereafter to approve, agree and implement.

31. At the time of signing this statement to comply with the Court's deadline for filing, I am not aware of the detail of the proposal which has been announced beyond what is included in press reports.

Statement of Truth

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

Dated: 28 April 2026

Signed by:

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