

On behalf of: Claimant
By: Deborah Carter-Hughes
No: Six
Exhibit: DCH6

Date: 15 May 2026

KB-2026-BHM-000043

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

KING'S 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 sixth 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 DCH6". These documents are identified in this witness statement by references to the page numbers in the form "[**DCH6/tab no**]".

Notification of Extension Application Hearing

- 9 I instructed DLA to appoint Tremark to serve leaflets in the form at [**DCH6/1**] on the morning of 30 April 2026 ahead of the hearing which had been scheduled to take place that day at Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre, The Priory Courts, 33 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6DS (**Original Hearing**). This was done by Saab Samra, who has provided a

witness statement to confirm the actions that he took at each of the Depots [DCH6/2].

Postponement of Extension Application Hearing

- 10 I attended the Court on 30 April 2026 for the Original Hearing along with other representatives for the Council. We were notified by the clerk that the Judge was unwell, and we were asked whether we would prefer for the hearing to take place remotely that afternoon or to be rescheduled for another day.
- 11 We indicated a preference for the hearing to take place that afternoon and we were told to await receipt of dial in details. We returned to DLA's offices and planned to join the hearing from there (**Remote Hearing**).
- 12 The Council updated the landing page of the Webpage to say that the hearing had been rescheduled to take place remotely in the afternoon and that a link to join the proceedings would be published when it was received from the Court.
- 13 The Council also posted a similar message on its social media channels: X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook and BlueSky [DCH6/3].
- 14 During the course of the morning, the court provided an amended hearing notice, confirming that the rescheduled hearing would take place at 2:00 pm on 30 April 2026, and including a CVP link and joining pin (**Remote Hearing Notice**) [DCH6/4]. Following receipt of the Remote Hearing Notice, the Acting Delivery Manager emailed DLA to explain that the link on the hearing notice was incorrect and to provide alternative joining details [DCH6/5]. There was then some further correspondence between DLA and the clerk to ensure that the dial in details were correct before we issued updates to the Defendants.
- 15 When the dial in details were confirmed by the Acting Delivery Manager [DCH6/6], the landing page of the Webpage was updated to provide the CVP link and joining pin. The Remote Hearing Notice was also uploaded to the Webpage and further social media posts were also made by the Council sharing the CVP link and joining pin for the hearing [DCH6/7]. The Webpage wording and social media posts made clear that anyone

intending to join the hearing should use the link provided on the Webpage/posting and not the link in the Remote Hearing Notice.

- 16 When we attempted to join the Remote Hearing, we were notified that the Judge was too unwell and that the hearing would need to be rescheduled for a later date.
- 17 The Council updated the Webpage to explain that the hearing had been postponed and that the hearing would be rescheduled to take place at a later date to be confirmed. The Council also posted on X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook, and BlueSky confirming the same [DCH6/8].
- 18 I had also instructed DLA to provide updates to other interested third parties as the day progressed, to notify them of the rescheduling of the hearing, provide joining details for the hearing and then notify them of the postponement. I understand that DLA sent emails to Sharon Graham, Onay Kasab and Annmarie Kilcline of Unite (copying Thompsons Solicitors) [DCH6/9], Strike Map [DCH6/10], the Socialist Workers Party [DCH6/11], Reel News [DCH6/12], and the Birmingham Socialist Party [DCH6/13].

Notification of Rescheduled Hearing and Part 8 Application

- 19 We received a request from the Court to confirm our availability for a relisted hearing on 1 May 2026 [DCH6/14]. DLA confirmed to the Court our availability later that same day and a copy of the Court's letter was uploaded to the Webpage. The letter was removed from the Website in error on 12 May 2026 but was reinstated on 14 May 2026.
- 20 We received notification that the hearing would be rescheduled for 10:30 am on 18 May 2026 at Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre, The Priory Courts, 33 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6DS (**Rescheduled Hearing**) by Order of 12 May 2026 (**Rescheduled Hearing Notice**) [DCH6/15].
- 21 The Court's letter of 1 May 2026 also invited the Council to consider its position as to whether the claim should continue under Part 7 of the Civil Procedure Rules or if it should be dealt with under Part 8.

- 22 On 12 May 2026, we submitted an application and draft Order to transfer the proceedings to the Part 8 process [**DCH6/16 – 17**] (**Part 8 Application Documents**). DLA also submitted a cover letter to explain the background to the Part 8 application [**DCH6/18**].
- 23 We then took steps to notify the Defendants of the Rescheduled Hearing in accordance with the Rescheduled Hearing Notice and took the opportunity to flag that the Part 8 application had also been submitted.
- 24 I understand that DLA emailed each of the interested parties on 12 May 2026, attaching the Rescheduled Hearing Order and Part 8 Application Documents, to provide details of the Rescheduled Hearing and Part 8 application. The emails were sent to Strike Map [**DCH6/19**], the Socialist Workers Party [**DCH6/20**], Reel News [**DCH6/21**], Birmingham Socialist Party [**DCH6/22**], and Sharon Graham, Onay Kasab and Annmarie Kilcline of Unite, copying Neil Todd and William Webb of Thompsons Solicitors [**DCH6/23**].
- 25 I also instructed DLA to appoint Tremark to hand out leaflets in the form at [**DCH6/24**] confirming the details of the Rescheduled Hearing and notifying persons unknown of the Part 8 Application. This was undertaken by Saab Samra on 13 May 2026 and he has provided the witness statement at [**DCH6/25**] which shows the efforts made to serve on the Defendants at each of the Depots.
- 26 I instructed the Depot managers to affix the Rescheduled Hearing Notice and the notice in the form at [**DCH6/24**] at each of the Depots. I have received the following confirmations that this was done:
- 26.1 Lifford Lane Depot: Siobhan Stubbs from Veolia confirmed that the notices had been put in place on 13 May 2026 with photos to confirm [**DCH6/26**].
- 26.2 Smithfield Depot: Shirley Goddard (Business Support Officer) confirmed that the notices had been put in place on 13 May 2026 with photos to confirm [**DCH6/27**].

- 26.3 Atlas Depot: The Depot manager Dave Miller confirmed by email that these had gone up on 13 May 2026 with photos to confirm [DCH6/28].
- 26.4 Perry Barr Depot: The Depot manager Richard Smith confirmed by email that the notices were put in place on 13 May 2026 [DCH6/29].
- 27 In addition, I asked colleagues to upload the Rescheduled Hearing Notice and Part 8 Application Documents to the Webpage and this was done on the morning of 13 May 2026. The landing page of the Webpage was also updated to provide the details of the Rescheduled Hearing and notification of the Part 8 application.
- 28 On 13 May 2026, the Council also posted on its social media. The posts included the details of the Rescheduled Hearing and explained that the hearing would also consider the Council's Part 8 application. The Council posted on X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook, and BlueSky [DCH6/30].
- 29 On 13 May 2026, DLA also hand-delivered a letter to Unite's head office in the form shown at [DCH6/31]. This enclosed hard copies of the Rescheduled Hearing Notice and Part 8 Application Documents. The photo at [DCH6/32] shows the letter being delivered.

Further Leafletting

- 30 I also instructed DLA to appoint Tremark to carry out further leafletting on 15 May 2026. The purpose of the leafletting was to reiterate the hearing date and flag that additional documentation, including this statement, will be uploaded to the Webpage in advance of the hearing. A copy of the wording Tremark were instructed to use is shown at [DCH6/33]. The leafletting was carried out by Saab Samra, who has provided a witness statement detailing the steps he took [DCH6/34].

Monitoring of Notices

- 31 The Existing Injunction, the Extension Application and, since it was put in place as outlined above, the Rescheduled Hearing Notice have remained in place at each of the Depots and I have received the following confirmations of this:

31.1 Week commencing 27 April 2026

- (a) Atlas Depot: David Miller and security monitored the notices between 27 April 2026 and 3 May 2026 [DCH6/35]. There were no issues reported.
- (b) Smithfield and Lifford Lane Depots: Dean Smith monitored the notices between 27 April 2026 and 1 May 2026 [DCH6/36]. There were no issues to report.
- (c) Perry Barr Depot: Richard Smith monitored the notices between 27 April 2026 and 1 May 2026 [DCH6/37]. There were no issues reported.

31.2 Week commencing 4 May 2026

- (a) Atlas Depot: David Miller and security monitored the notices between 4 and 10 May 2026 [DCH6/38]. There were no issues reported.
- (b) Smithfield and Lifford Lane Depots: Dean Smith monitored the notices between 4 and 8 May 2026 [DCH6/39]. There were no issues to report.
- (c) Perry Barr Depot: Richard Smith monitored the notices between 4 and 8 May 2026 [DCH6/40]. There were no issues reported.

31.3 Week commencing 11 May 2026:

- (a) Atlas Depot: David Miller and security monitored the notices between 11 and 15 May 2026 [DCH6/41]. There were no issues reported. The form includes notes for checks which have not yet taken place. This is due to a previous form being used as a template and is being corrected.
- (b) Smithfield and Lifford Lane Depots: Dean Smith monitored the notices between 11 and 15 May 2026 [DCH6/42]. There were no issues to report.

(c) Perry Barr Depot: Richard Smith monitored the notices between 11 and 15 May 2026 [DCH6/43]. There were no issues reported.

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 15 May 2026

Signed by:

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
DEBORAH CARTER-HUGHES**

DLA Piper UK LLP
160 Aldersgate Street
London
EC1A 4HT
United Kingdom
Tel: +442077966201
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7796 6666

Ref: ATA/ATA/36257/120050/UKM/212226653.7
Solicitors for the Claimant