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Mr James Lloyd  
House of Commons  
Houses of Parliament,  
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[nelsonw@parliament.uk](mailto:nelsonw@parliament.uk)

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
Tel No.: (DDI) 01622 654413  
FOI Ref.: 8541-2008

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Kent Police on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in which you ask several questions relating to the policing of the Camp for Climate Change near Kingsnorth Power station (Operation Oasis). We recognise and respect the considerable public interest in our policing of the climate camp and we will shortly be publishing on our website a compendium of information including material relating to strategic and tactical considerations and decision-making, costs, numbers of arrests and articles confiscated during the operation.

I have dealt with each of your questions in turn:

- 1. A copy of all accident logs pertaining to injuries sustained by police officers whilst policing the camp, with number of injuries, cause of injury and type of wounds.*

Answer: The record of Reportable Injuries Sustained by Police Officers and Staff during Operation Oasis is included at Appendix 1. Please note that, as this relates to medical information which is sensitive personal data under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998, I have omitted some fields containing the names of the individuals involved under the exemption at section 40(2) of the Act, which relates to personal information. This is a class-based and absolute exemption, which does not require me in this case to provide evidence of harm or to consider the public interest. For the sake of clarity, relevance and formatting, I have also removed other information fields that were not pertinent to your request and trust that this approach is acceptable.

The thirteen injuries sustained on this record relate to those injuries for which it was necessary to absent the individual from work for a period, thus requiring that the incidents be reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

In all, Kent Police Tactical Medicine Unit dealt with 33 staff requiring medical assistance, and I have attached a list of those treatments at Appendix 2. Again, no personal information of the staff is included for the above reasons.

Further to the treatment by our own teams, the Red Cross were also present and treated around 35 staff. This is admittedly an approximation and no detailed information relating to these contacts is held by Kent Police.

Further to the treatment outlined above, other forces providing mutual aid also had their own teams present, using their own medically trained staff, first aiders and competent persons. No records are held by Kent Police that can provide any information as to the number or nature of injuries treated. In general, officers who received treatment were dealt with by the most readily available means, rather than necessary by their own force's resources.

We consider it a measure of the success of the policing operation that so few injuries were sustained, both by officers and protestors, and that none were serious.

*2. A full list of all arrests made pertaining to the camp, including location and reason for arrest, as well as which of these led to a charge / conviction.*

Answer: During the operation to police the Camp for Climate Change, there were 100 arrests of 99 persons (one person was arrested twice.) 46 people were charged, 22 were cautioned and three were bound over. One person was remanded for breach of bail. It would not be possible to extract detailed data regarding the location and reason for every arrest and subsequent conviction without manually examining each individual case, which would involve an expenditure of resources that would far exceed the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. However, the list of offences, and the numbers of people detained for them, is included in the table below.

<i>Offences</i>	<i>Persons detained</i>
<i>Assault on Police</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Aggravated Trespass</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Possession of Bladed Articles</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Breach of Bail</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Breach of Peace</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Cannabis Possession</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Criminal Damage</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Drink Driving</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Drunk and Disorderly</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Possession of Controlled drugs</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Going Equipped to commit criminal damage</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Handling Stolen Goods</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>No Vehicle Insurance</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Obstruction (Resisting or obstructing a constable in the course of their duty)</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Possession of articles to commit criminal damage</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Section 5 – Public Order Act Disorderly Conduct (Causing Harassment, Alarm or Distress)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Section 14 – Public Order Act (breach of conditions imposed upon an assembly by a senior officer)</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Theft</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Theft of Vehicle</i>	<i>2</i>

Of the 27 arrests for obstruction, 25 persons were charged and one was cautioned. One person was refused charge after being initially bailed pending further enquiries. Of the 20 arrests made under the Public Order Act, 5 persons were charged and 15 were cautioned.

Information released under the Freedom of Information Act is released into the wider world. During the period that Operation Oasis was in force, Kent Police published the details of persons charged with offences to press agencies, and upon our own website. These details have now been removed from our website but may still be on the internet in the archives of online news services. Even though this personal data was published into the public domain at the time, and may still be available there, Kent Police do not believe that it is appropriate or necessary for the Force to continue to provide such data into the public domain absent there being any particular public interest in this being done.

### 3. *A full inventory of items seized during the camp.*

Answer: As stated above and discussed during our recent telephone conversation, Kent Police will shortly be publishing a compendium of information relating to Operation Oasis on our website. This material is currently being prepared and will be included with that information. We are hoping to complete this work during the opening months of 2009. This information is therefore exempt under section 22 of the Act (information intended for future publication.)

Section 22 is a qualified exemption, which means that the Force is required to consider the public interest in withholding or releasing the information. A factor that may balance the public interest in favour of immediate disclosure could include where a pressing need existed for this information to be released to the world. This is the case insofar as there is some current debate around the use of search and seizure powers by Kent Police during this operation.

However, as the period of time between the creation of the information and its publication is not particularly lengthy or unreasonable, and some information has already been made available, we do not feel that it is necessary to release this information ahead of our intended time of publication.

Some of the items seized are shown below and the exhaustive, complete list is not likely to reveal a great deal more. The table does not always show quantities of the items and in each case more than one example may have been seized.

D-Locks	Marker Pens	Glue	Paint	Hard Hats
Paddles	Inflatable Dinghies	Life-Jackets	Chains and Padlocks	Barrels (13)
Plans and Maps of Kingsnorth	Tubes (for lock-ons)	Inflatable Cushions	Board Games (with balaclavas)	Climbing Harnesses (3)
Wire-Cutters	Bolt-Cutters	Throwing Star	Face Masks	Wood
Cannabis	Wet Suits	Large Inner tubes	Foot Pumps	Coveralls
Flares	Smoke-Grenades	Carpet	Makeshift Shields	Tyres (30)
Scaffold Poles	Rope	Geodome-Tubing	Duct Tape	Grappling Hooks
Wooden Pallets	Generators	Shovels/Forks	Sledgehammers	Saws (18)
Spear (1)	Ice Axes (9)	Boxes of Nails(10)	Darts (3)	Scissors (8)
Gloves	Mig-Welding Wire	Hammers (15)	Axes (5)	Knives (27)

Some of these items were seized because of their obvious potential to be used in acts of violence, e.g knives, throwing stars etc. Others, including tyres, barrels, inflatable dinghies, inner tubes etc, were seized to prevent them being used in the planned waterborne protest which had been prohibited by the harbour master. Other items had a potential for use in either attempting to illegally gain access to the site (wire and bolt cutters, shovels and forks, grappling hooks) or alternatively had a potential to be used in lock-on protests (chains and padlocks, bicycle D locks in large quantities). Still other items could be used during illegal protest activity to conceal identity (balaclavas, face masks) or to obscure other activities (smoke grenades).

It must be borne in mind that many of these items were seized for their potential to be used illegally, rather than because they were being used to break the law at the time they were seized. Once an article has been seized, it usually follows that no crime can be committed with that article. Kent Police's policy during the policing of this event was to seize items that may be used in the commission of an offence and thus prevent the offence - it being preferable to prevent the offence than to arrest the person. Once the suspect items had been confiscated, the protestors were able to continue exercising their rights to lawfully protest. Considerable efforts have been made to make it possible for items to be returned to their owners. However, since in many cases the owners declined to provide their details it may not be possible in all instances to achieve this.

Kent Police recognise that the majority of protestors at the camp were law-abiding members of the public exercising their rights to protest. However, a significant body of intelligence existed which contributed to a reasonable belief that some protestors were intent on committing offences. This included statements on the camp for climate change website and in the wider media. This intelligence was borne out by many of the items seized above and when many of the protestors made concerted attempts to breach the fence of the Power Station.

Kent Police's intentions in policing the Camp for Climate Change are best expressed by ACC Thomas in his Gold Commander strategy document for Operation Oasis, and I have included a relevant passage from this document overleaf:

"The intention of the police operation is to safeguard the rights of all persons involved in or affected by the protest. The public are entitled to peacefully protest in a free society and the police must safeguard this right. Others engaged in lawful economic activities should also be able to do so without hindrance or disturbance from protestors."

### Strategic Objectives

- The protection of life
- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The facilitation of lawful protest
- The investigation of criminality, dealing proportionately and fairly with offenders and securing the best evidence for any prosecutions
- To minimise disruption to the local community and to provide reassurance more generally
- To ensure a swift return to normality

#### *4. Copies of all correspondence with the Department of Business Enterprises and Regulatory Reform pertaining to the camp.*

Answer: There has been some limited communication with that department over the telephone but no correspondence has been exchanged. Therefore this information is not held.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police and I hope the information that I have been able to provide is of use to you. A sheet, which summarised your rights, was enclosed with the acknowledgement sent to you and as suggested therein, should you have any further questions concerning your request, please contact me quoting the reference number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

**Nigel Amos**  
**Freedom of Information Advisor**