

SUSSEX POLICE

MG 11(T)

**RESTRICTED (when complete)****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

URN

--	--	--	--

Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18:

(if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: POLICE SERGEANT

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date 29/11/2024

 Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I have been requested to provide this statement in respect of a protest I attended on 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023. I am writing this statement on 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024. I do not recall a great deal about the event, given it was over a year ago.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 I was on duty in uniform conducting my duties as a Police Sergeant with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, based at Haywards Heath Police Station.

On this shift, I was tasked with attending a planned protest which was due to take place on SAINT HILL ROAD, EAST GRINSTEAD, outside the premises occupied by the Church of Scientology. The Church of Scientology were hosting an event over the weekend in which they were anticipating significant numbers of attendees.

The protestors made their way to the location from EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN CENTRE at around 1430. I do not recall the number of people within the group or the exact time they arrived at SAINT HILL ROAD. Police facilitated their journey when they reached SAINT HILL ROAD, due to a lack of footpaths and the protestors needing to walk on the road. The group were escorted by police to a location at the side of the road a short distance from the entrance to the Church of Scientology premises. The Church of Scientology had numerous security staff working, some of whom were stationed at the entrance and lining the boundary of their premises behind where the protestors decided to stand.

Police monitored the group for a few hours, who remained at the side of the road. One of the attendees had a loud hailer and other members of the group had banners and placards. I do not recall what was written on them. The protestors did not cause obstructions to the road, except for during the time they were escorted to and from their protest location.

There were traffic issues caused by the number of people attending the Scientology event and the traffic was heavily backlogged on and around SAINT HILL ROAD, particularly late afternoon. Attendees were having to park elsewhere and walk to the event and there were some near misses with passing traffic.

The organiser of the protest group was compliant with police requests throughout and liaised with us regularly, as did the security working for the Church of Scientology.

Once the event had begun and the worst of the traffic had ceased, the group were escorted by police back along SAINT HILL ROAD so they could return to the town centre. This was at approximately 1830. Police left the location once the protestors had left and were not called back.



MG 11(T)

RESTRICTED - FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTION ONLY  
(when complete)

