

Lucy Corrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2025 13:19
To: Lucy Corrie
Subject: Re: PSPO Saint Hill Road , East Grinstead. MSDC Voluntary Code of Conduct

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good afternoon Lucy,

Thank you for sending this over. Having read this through, I have some thoughts about specific parts of this code of conduct, as well as the wider nature of having a code of conduct through MSDC outright. Hopefully you can offer some clarification on these points.

First, in point five, it says that "protesters will not (or will not attempt to) harass, intimidate or abuse any persons attending events at Church premises." I have no issue with this at all. As discussed in our meeting, I would argue that there is no evidence of this happening and that no protesters are attending the event with the intention of harassing, intimidating, or abusing anyone.

Yet, this leads me to the question of who judges what actions are considered harassing/intimidating/abusive? Is it an observer from the council? The police? If so, I assume they are there to enforce it. Whilst I can agree to not doing this, I cannot enforce this for anyone attending as the protestors who attend the protest are not from an organised group, so if there is someone who violates this point, how would this be addressed?

Second, point eight discusses filming those entering and existing the church premises. In our meeting, I described how the intention of us filming was to safeguard ourselves from any allegations, to fundraise for relevant charities, and to raise awareness of our cause. In order to raise awareness of our cause and prove its effectiveness, I see it as important to film our protest and how it is received by passers by and event attendees. There is no way for us to know whether somebody walking past is a Scientologist or member of the public just passing by.

By filming the events happening on Saint Hill Road, we never intend to violate anybody's right of privacy, and doing so is evidently of public interest. Current laws in place allow us to do this and if we were to agree to point eight, I worry that this would lead to further disagreements with the church as to what is considered proper use of video equipment when on public property. Our intention is not to record or film people going to attend a religious worship ceremony - the IAS event is a fundraising event. Our goal is to promote our message and demonstrate the growing support for our cause, evidenced by the international press attention we have received.

Third, in point nine, it raises approaching people with leaflets or similar. By not allowing us to leaflet, it may in fact cause people who currently struggle to hear our message to definitely not hear our message or be aware of existing support services available to them. The Police already have existing powers that can be used if any leaflets or printed materials are deemed offensive, and our signage has been consistent across both years. Nothing we have displayed or given out has raised concerns with the Police and our message remains one of kindness and compassion. I realise that if we were to ever pressure people into taking materials it could be intimidating, so we take great care not to do so in such a manner.

Ultimately, my concern is that this may place further pressure on the council to assign staff to this issue and potentially "muddies the waters" of who/what/how this can be enforced when there are reasonable powers with the police to stop any illegal activity from happening during the protest already.

Whilst most of what is in the code of conduct is fair, like I said earlier, when it comes from the council applying this, I think it may lead to more issues than not having a code of conduct between the parties at all, and relying on current powers as breaches arise.

Hopefully this makes sense and you can see why I have raised what I have. If you have any further questions or can clarify how you see this being applied in practice, please feel free to get back to me on this email.

Kind regards,



On Thursday 22 May 2025 at 17:19:36 BST, Lucy Corrie <lucy.corrie@midsussex.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Protesters,

Please find attached a letter this Council would like you to consider.

Please respond by 29th May 2025.

Kind Regards,

Lucy

Lucy Corrie

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