

Lucy Corrie

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**From:** Peter Hodkin <peter@hodkin.org>  
**Sent:** 18 June 2025 02:01  
**To:** Lucy Corrie  
**Cc:** Jane Barker; pspo  
**Subject:** MSDC - Voluntary Code of Conduct letter -Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead  
**Attachments:** Designated protest space.pdf

Dear Ms Corrie

Thank you for your email. We do appreciate all of the efforts of yourself and your colleagues in this matter

Unfortunately, I understand you to be saying that the anti-Scientologists have once again refused to agree to a voluntary code of conduct which would obviate the need for the PSPO.

As you know the purpose of the application for a PSPO was to prevent the activities of anti-Scientologists from having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of local Scientologists and other visitors to the Church of Scientology at Saint Hill. They need to be able to enter their place of worship without having to pass through or immediately next to people who are hostile to their religion, and without being harassed and intimidated by being called out to, filmed and live streamed on the internet.

The "voluntary code" in its current form still enables the protestors to do all of the things the PSPO is designed to prevent. In other words, it still leaves local Scientologists and other visitors to the Church of Scientology at Saint Hill unable to enter their place of worship without having to pass through or immediately next to people who are hostile to their religion, and without being harassed and intimidated by being called out to, filmed and live streamed on the internet.

### **Designated protest space**

The current version of point 2 does not say that the protestors will remain in the space which has been designated by the police. Rather it says that they will remain in a space "agreed" with the police. In the last two years the police have designated the space indicated on the map, but the protestors refused to agree that. There is no reason to think that they will agree it now.

In addition, from the point of security, safety and event management this space cannot just be decided on the day. The safety barriers will need to be put in place, security personnel deployed, and the parking plan organised. Last year, because of the location of the protestors, parking for many local Scientologists had to be moved to Fonthill, rather than the Rugby Club – causing extreme inconvenience and extra distance to be walked.

On the other hand, if the protestors do stand in the place that the police have designated, there will be no parking at Fonthill (because the walk from Fonthill would take Scientologists directly past them), and the usual Rugby Club car park will be used instead.

### **Protesters will not (or will not attempt to) harass, intimidate or abuse any persons attending events at Church premises**

This is meaningless if it expressly excludes the main ways in which persons attending the events are harassed, intimidated and abused – namely by being called out to and being humiliated and having their privacy violated by being filmed and live streamed. Scientologists who have been identified in this way in the past have also been subjected to further online abuse by anti-Scientologists.

As a recognised religion, the Church is a protected group under equalities legislation, and its members are entitled to access their place of worship free from obstruction or duress. There is specific recognition of the

special status of places of worship in the law, and the Scientology community are entitled to the same treatment and consideration as would be given to any other religious community.

To be clear, my client respects the rights of peaceful protest, and do not seek to curtail lawful expression. However, these rights must be balanced with those of my client's congregation, who also have a right to attend their religious services and activities without being filmed, followed, or confronted at the gate.

In the circumstances, the Voluntary Code will only effectively address the issues that the PSPO is designed to resolve if those two points are amended to read:

**2. At all times protesters will remain in the space designated by the police (indicated by a blue arrow on the attached map), other than for the reasonable purposes of entering and exiting that space.**

and

**5. Protesters will not (or will not attempt to) harass, intimidate or abuse any persons attending events at Church premises, or persons providing security or stewarding services for Church events. This includes not calling out to, filming or live streaming them or using foul or abusive language.**

Unless both those points are agreed we are really no further forward than we were before, and all the reasons for the PSPO will remain.

My client requests, that either the protestors agree not to protest at their gate and not to harass, intimidate or abuse attendees by calling out to, filming or livestreaming them, or else that the PSPO be granted to secure the quality of life of local people against such detriments.

Kind regards

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