
Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Public Question

Questions Posed:

- 1) Doesn't the absence of convictions during policing operations at Walleys Quarry suggest a pattern of poor policing, poor police judgement on the days of mass policing in question?
- 2) What work is Staffordshire Police going to do to regain the confidence of the taxpayer who after all appear to pay their wages?

Panel Member: Public Question

Question Date: 05/07/2022

Commissioner Response:

- 1) Doesn't the absence of convictions during policing operations at Walleys Quarry suggest a pattern of poor policing, poor police judgement on the days of mass policing in question?**

All the cases in question were reviewed by the CPS and they took the decision to discontinue the prosecutions. Following an appeal by the Police, the CPS upheld their initial decisions but stated, "The act of the police in removing the protestors to allow the use of the site was a proportionate one." But in the application of DPP v Ziegler [2021] the CPS concluded that whilst the s137 Obstruction of the Highway offences were made out, it was not proportionate to prosecute.

- 2) What work is Staffordshire Police going to do to regain the confidence of the taxpayer who after all appear to pay their wages?**

Staffordshire Police continue to work closely with all of the agencies involved, engaging regularly with the communities and businesses

There has been a rich and varied picture of public engagement and partnership working since the issue began to gather momentum around 2 – 3 years ago.

- Consultation with elected members including local councillors and key community contacts
- Aaron Bell MP – numerous enquiries and updates passed for his constituency office to be aware of.
- Business community offered contact and updates from local officers
- Staffordshire Police – social media updates
- Staffordshire Police – statements and updates via Press office
- Numerous Police & Multi-Agency public consultation events – face to face

- PCSOs tasked with conducting Citizen Contact Records in the affected areas to identify local policing priorities
- Complaint SPOC assigned in Professional Standards Department for protest-policing based issues
- Regular engagement with RED Industries to understand position / movement within the community
- Community Impact Assessment – managed and regularly reviewed to understand community tension
- Local policing presence at protests in addition to Police Support Unit (Public Order trained officers) delegation –to offer consistency and familiarity.

Contact Officer

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