

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

CHANCERY DIVISION

PROPERTY TRUSTS AND PROBATE LIST

B E T W E E N

(1) UNITED KINGDOM OIL PIPELINES LIMITED

(2) WEST LONDON PIPELINE AND STORAGE LIMITED

Claimants / Applicants

and

(1) PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING OR REMAINING WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CLAIMANTS AND IN CONNECTION WITH OR AFFILIATED TO THE EXTINCTION REBELLION CAMPAIGN OR THE JUST STOP OIL CAMPAIGN ON LAND AND BUILDINGS AT (A) THE BUNCEFIELD OIL TERMINAL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE (SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION SHADED RED ON THE ATTACHED SITE 1 PLAN) (B) THE KINGSBURY OIL TERMINAL, KINGSBURY, WARWICKSHIRE (SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION SHADED RED ON THE ATTACHED SITE 2 PLAN)

First Defendant / Respondent

(2) PERSONS UNKNOWN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CLAIMANTS AND IN CONNECTION WITH OR AFFILIATED TO THE EXTINCTION REBELLION CAMPAIGN OR THE JUST STOP OIL CAMPAIGN INTERFERING WITH THE FIRST CLAIMANT'S RIGHTS TO PASS AND REPASS WITH OR WITHOUT VEHICLES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT OVER PRIVATE ACCESS ROADS ADJACENT TO (A) THE BUNCEFIELD OIL TERMINAL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE (SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION SHADED BLUE ON THE ATTACHED SITE 1 PLAN) (B) THE KINGSBURY OIL TERMINAL, KINGSBURY, WARWICKSHIRE (SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION SHADED BLUE ON THE ATTACHED SITE 2 PLAN)

Second Defendant / Respondent

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Extinction Rebellion occupy office of Top 50 broker in latest protest

By



James Cowen 9 January 2025

It comes after a campaign group warned of more insurance-related protests in 2025

Extinction Rebellion (XR) occupied one of Marsh's UK offices in its latest round of insurance-related protests.

Earlier this week (8 January 2025), the group targeted the broker's Manchester office in 12 Booth Street, Belvedere.

The protest was related to fossil fuels, with protesters calling for the support of such projects to be ended.

In a post on X, XR's northern arm said: "Local residents are occupying the office lobby in Manchester to ask Marsh to stop 'funding our destruction' by insuring fossil fuel projects and instead 'insure our future' by moving towards a green economy."



Read: [Climate activists issue protest threat](#)

Read: [Climate protesters list 2025 demands to insurance industry](#)

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Marsh is ranked second in *Insurance Times'* [Top 50 Brokers](#) 2024 report, with it securing a revenue of £1.76bn for the year ending December 2023.

Campaign

The protest comes following multiple protests during late 2024.

Read: [Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil occupy multiple insurance offices](#)

Read: [Extinction Rebellion blockade Gherkin as more insurance firms targeted](#)

Explore more [broker-related content here](#), or discover other [news stories here](#)

These were part of the Insure Our Survival campaign, which aims to stop insurance firms from insuring new fossil fuel projects.

Speaking to *Insurance Times*, Isabelle L'Héritier, European co-coordinator at Insure Our Future, alleged that some insurers' actions were hindering progress toward reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable energy.

She warned that if they "refuse to stop supporting the expansion of fossil fuels", the group will "hold them accountable".

"Insurers must not ignore the fundamental and consistent prediction of climate scientists – any delay in cutting emissions drastically today will put lives, economies and the future of humanity in unacceptable danger tomorrow," she added.



Youth Demand activists disrupted the London Marathon to urge the government to impose a trade embargo on Israel
PA

Undercover at Youth Demand's awards for arrested activists

Our reporter attended three events that launched Youth Demand, the group taking up the mantle of public disruption from Just Stop Oil

Lara Wildenberg | Video by Sophia Crothall, Video Production Trainee

Friday June 06 2025, 9.35pm, The Times

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Clapping and cheering filled the basement room of a London community centre on a grey Saturday afternoon in May.

Two masters of ceremony were awarding prizes to everyone who had been arrested while carrying out protests for Youth Demand, blocking roads in the capital to the aggravation of motorists. There was a badge of honour for the bravest protesters.

There was an award called “Rizzing up the resistance” for everyone who had led chants or “generally brought the vibe”, and another called “Fried for Palestine” for those who had been burnt by a flare.

The award ceremony was part of a “strategy launch” for Youth Demand, one of three events attended by an undercover reporter from The Times to understand the group’s training techniques and plans for future public disruption.

Youth Demand is the latest activism campaign taking up the mantle of public disruption started by Extinction Rebellion, Insulate Britain and, most recently, Just Stop Oil.

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Youth Demand blocked traffic on Tower Bridge Road as they rallied in support of Palestine on April 5

JACK TAYLOR FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES

Accusing the government of “engaging in absolute evil”, Youth Demand has two aims: the end of all trade with Israel and raising £1 trillion by 2030 “from the fossil fuel elite”.

Dozens of members of the “non-violent civil resistance group” were arrested in April after they attempted to “shut London down” with over 70 roadblocks, as well as [throwing red powder paint in front of the men’s elite race at the London marathon](#) as it crossed Tower Bridge.

In a protest over the [Israel-Gaza war](#), supporters laid child-sized body bags outside the home of [David Lammy](#), foreign secretary, and hung a banner surrounded with red hand prints reading “Starmer stop the killing” at the home of the prime minister.

Over the course of a six-hour “non-violence training session” in April, a five-hour “strategy launch” in May and an evening social in June, The Times heard Youth Demand members being taught strategies likely to get them arrested as part of the “resistance” and told what to do if that happened.

One of the co-founders told attendees that Youth Demand was “not your classic revolutionary organisation, which does an event once a year then goes back to their Lenin book clubs”. Another organiser said the summer was an “inhale” as the group prepares for “something even bigger than we’ve tried before”.

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The sessions came just weeks after Just Stop Oil, perhaps the most notorious protest movement in recent years, [announced it would “hang up the high vis”](#) and end its programme of direct action. Campaigners said they had achieved their goals because of a government commitment to end new oil and gas extraction.

- **How Just Stop Oil was policed to extinction**

Activists from the supposedly disbanded group, however, were playing a central role in recruiting new members to Youth Demand to help its goal of bringing London to a halt. Events were even advertised using the JSO logo.

When asked to comment on the two groups' connections, a spokesperson JSO said it was building “a new street movement” as resistance was “needed now more than ever”.



Undercover with Youth Demand

A badge of honour

About 50 people attended the “strategy launch” in central London in a room adorned with Palestinian flags and banners reading “STOP ARMING GENOCIDE”.

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The majority were in their twenties and based in London, although some had travelled from further, including Manchester and Brighton. Many wore keffiyehs, traditional Palestinian scarves.

One of the organisers handing out awards said, “None of this may be able to go on your CV, but this badge will last a lifetime. Or as long as you don’t put it in the wash.”

He then outlined Youth Demand’s upcoming plans including biweekly “swarms” in London as well as poetry socials with vegan food.

The “swarm” is their signature protest, blocking busy roads with a line of people holding banners, flares and flags for about ten minutes, disrupting traffic and attracting attention, then dispersing before police arrive and repeating the process in another location.

It is a criminal offence to “wilfully obstruct” a road under the Highways Act 1980.

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The group’s priorities for summer, he said, were the retention and training of new recruits, as well as bolstering branches around the country.

A series of training events held in June, titled “Seeds for revolution”, as well as a summer camp in August involving swimming and campfires will be in partnership with the “demand-winning civil resistance experience” of JSO, the organiser said.

“We’ve already got a bunch of really experienced, really cool, speakers and trainers lined up for this. We’re really pulling on that civil resistance network that we’re plugged into, to get a better and deeper understanding,” he said to cheers from the audience.

Discussing the upcoming plans in collaboration with JSO, he continued, “This is the inhale before we breathe out and expand into brand new territory, into something even bigger than we’ve tried before. This is the start of something genuinely thrilling.”

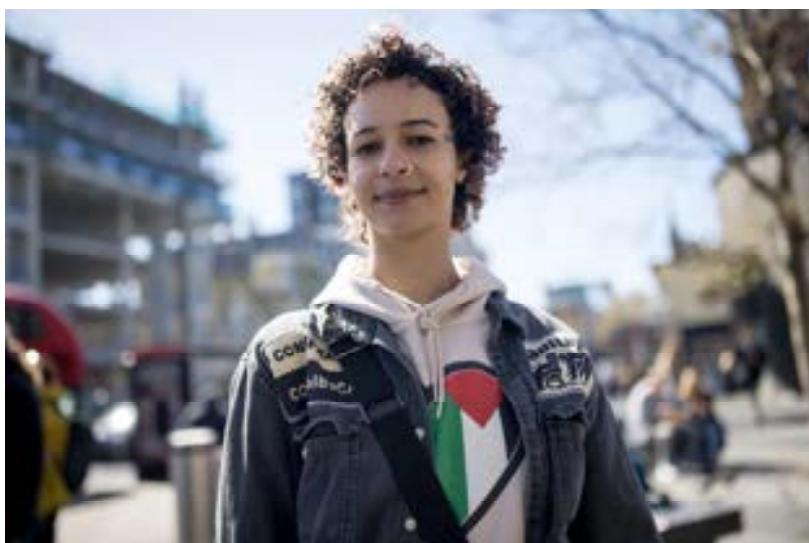
Organisers claimed that although the April protest had resulted in the arrest of 35 members, the group had raised £30,000 in small donations and attracted even more recruits.

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They also appeared to feel emboldened by backlash at the end of March against the Met Police, who were criticised for [raiding a Quaker meeting house](#) to arrest six members for conspiracy to cause a public nuisance. One of the badges had read, “I got arrested in a Quaker meeting house and all I got was this lousy badge”.

“I do all my own stunts”

Another of those speaking to attendees was Meaghan Leon. The 27-year-old Londoner was one of two Youth Demand activists who attempted to disrupt Eurovision last month by trying to climb on to the stage during Israel’s performance.



Meaghan Leon said: “Somehow I have still never been in handcuffs”

Leon gave a speech to attendees at the strategy launch wearing a t-shirt that read “I do all my own stunts”.

“That was my first actual action, before that I was just doing swarms,” she said, “Somehow I have still never been in handcuffs, I’ve still never been in a jail cell, so you know what that means. I’ve just got to keep going.” The crowd cheered.

One attendee said in conversation that he hoped to encourage London members down to Brighton to block the main beachfront road on a busy summer’s day.

Another said she had avoided breaking pre-charge bail conditions by helping swarms from the pavement – filming for the group’s social media accounts – rather than being on the road.

Two members of JSO attended the strategy launch and took notes. One, with multiple arrests under his belt, said he had donated to Youth Demand and now wanted to join their protests after listening to the session. Another, who is awaiting trial, said JSO needed to “build numbers” and she would join if her legal proceedings allowed.

In March JSO announced that its last protests would be at the end of April, claiming it had succeeded because the government was planning to end new oil and gas extraction. Critics suggested they had run out of members who had managed to avoid criminal charges and remained willing to act. Supporters, however, hinted that they would reappear under a new name.

Born from JSO Students in January 2024, Youth Demand belongs to the Umbrella coalition, which also encompasses JSO.

Many of the organisers are facing legal proceedings for previous protests with the climate group.

When asked about its connections with Youth Demand, JSO told The Times: “We held our last action as Just Stop Oil at the end of April. But we said then and have continued to communicate, to our supporters and to the wider public, that resistance works and that it’s needed now more than ever. Governments everywhere are retreating from doing what is needed to protect us from the consequences of unchecked fossil fuel burning.

“We are creating a new strategy, to face this reality and to carry our responsibilities at this time. Just Stop Oil has shown that resistance works — ordinary people can bring about change by putting their bodies on the line week after week, risking arrest and even imprisonment. So we are building a new street movement rooted in local communities and dedicated to nonviolent civil resistance.”

Non-violence

A few weeks earlier, at the same community centre, about 30 people turned up to a non-violence training session.

Part of the session included a mock swarm with attendees taking on different roles. Some held banners and practised standing their ground as organisers played furious members of the public trying to break up the roadblock. Designated “de-escalators” tried to calm down the pretend motorists who tried to tear flags from people’s hands.

A new recruit acting as “chant leader” asked for inspiration, with an organiser responding, “‘Free Palestine’ is a good one?” There was a designated “safety co-ordinator” as well as “media bees” who recorded the action.

One of the two organisers leading the event, [Jai Halai](#), an NHS worker from London, also gave a talk telling attendees about activists' rights and what to do if arrested.

Organisers also used videos of a JSO road-block as teaching material to point out what protesters did well and poorly. In one clip, an angry motorist attacks a protester.

“The man who attacked Daniel was in a collision, likely as a result of the slow march,” the other organiser said. “He was in that car with his pregnant wife, girlfriend at the time, and was obviously very upset by that, scared by that, angry and took that out on the first person in the slow march he came across.

“You can see her leading him away at the end of the video. He actually came back after — it’s not shown in the video, sadly — he came back and apologised to Daniel afterwards, which I think just strongly shows testament that when you’re in those fight or flight scenarios, you’re not thinking in the same way at all. He regretted the violence he took at that very intense moment.”

“Not a Lenin book club”

As well as Youth Demand’s on street action, Sam Holland, one of their co-founders, gave a speech at the strategy launch calling for attendees to support Assemble.

Under the same Umbrella coalition as Youth Demand and Just Stop Oil, this political group aims to create a House of the People, a chamber representative of the UK public through a lottery.



Sam Holland, 22, said Youth Demand was “not your classic revolutionary organisation”

JACK TAYLOR FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES

Holland described Youth Demand and JSO — “one of the most serious resistance groups in the country” — as the street resistance wing to Assemble’s political wing.

“This is why we are going to be focusing on training and strategising over the summer, we need time to build a strategy that actually works with the House of the People,” he said,

“I want emphasise that we’re totally f***ing serious about this, this is not your classic revolutionary organisation which does an event once a year then goes back to their Lenin book clubs. There are assemblies running across the

country as we speak.”

Making a comparison to the protests in Egypt in 2011, Holland called for Youth Demand to back Assemble in order to have a political system in place when the revolution comes.

“This is the spirit that leads to revolutions and this is the spirit we’re building with Youth Demand,” he said. “That’s what we’re going to do.”

Youth Demand said: “It is clear to everyone the UK government is breaking International Humanitarian Law by arming Israel’s genocide in Gaza. By spending our tax money to help Israel carry out its genocidal campaign in Gaza, they have made all of us complicit in the greatest crime of our age. Youth Demand supporters refuse to sit by and watch millions of innocent civilians starved and bombed to pieces. We will continue to engage in our proud tradition of nonviolent civil resistance until the UK government stops arming genocide.”

Assemble said: “Trust in Westminster has collapsed and we need a political system that actually includes those who feel disenfranchised and locked out. That’s why Youth Demand and Just Stop Oil are supporting the House of the People: they recognise that system-change can only come from political change, and that the people of the UK have a right and responsibility to contribute to the important decisions which are made by captured Lords and politicians.”

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Activists block road by Royal Courts of Justice



The latest protest started on Thursday lunchtime

Harry Low

BBC News

30 January 2025

Hundreds of climate activists staged a sit-down protest outside the Royal Courts of Justice in central London.

About 30 Metropolitan Police officers asked the Defend Our Juries protesters to move to a designated protest area after they marched a short distance and

blocked traffic on the Strand.

Inside, the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales and two other senior judges were hearing an appeal brought by 16 Just Stop Oil activists, who claim their jail sentences were "manifestly excessive".

Prosecutors say their actions, including **climbing on gantries on the M25** and tunnelling under a road leading to an oil terminal, were so "extreme" the sentencing judges had been right not to grant leniency.



Activists also staged protests on Wednesday

On Wednesday, Danny Friedman KC, one of several lawyers representing the activists, told the Court of Appeal - which is based at the Royal Courts of Justice - that some of the sentences were "the highest of their kind in modern British history".

"They did what they did out of sacrifice," he added.

In joint written submissions, barristers for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said the sentences were "neither wrong in law nor manifestly excessive".

They argued that leniency would not prevent the activists "engaging in ever-more disruptive campaigns".

What is Just Stop Oil and what are its goals?

19 June 2024

Jailed M25 protesters gain support ahead of appeal

29 January

Activists jailed for throwing soup on Sunflowers

27 September 2024



Over 1000 people block the Strand outside the mass appeal hearing for 16 Just Stop Oil supporters

Court & Prison, Press / January 30, 2025

Over a thousand people have taken part in a peaceful demonstration blocking the road outside the Royal Courts of Justice. Inside, the appeal against the draconian sentences given to 16 Just Stop Oil supporters last year is continuing. The mass appeal concerns 16 supporters with combined sentences of 41 years handed down between July and September 2024. [1] [2]

All 16 Just Stop Oil supporters were jailed in the months following the publication of a report to the government written by 'Lord Walney', a paid lobbyist for the oil and arms industry that called for groups such as Just Stop Oil and Palestine Action to be banned in a similar way to terrorist organisations. [3][4]

Police arrested at least one prior to the demonstration. Another was arrested after the protest ended. Celebrities such as Chris Packham, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jonathan Pie could be seen peacefully blocking the road in defiance of swarms of police. Meanwhile, solidarity demonstrations have occurred in countries around the world, including Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand.

A Just Stop Oil spokesperson said:

"We are deeply grateful to the 1,000 peaceful protestors who turned up at the Royal Courts of Justice to show solidarity with Just Stop Oil supporters appealing their sentences. They know that our broken political system is on trial today. This case is not about whether peaceful climate defenders deserve to be punished with long prison sentences. It is about whether it is acceptable in a democracy to allow wealthy fossil fuel executives and paid lobbyists, presented as 'independent' government advisors, to dictate our laws, pervert our criminal justice system and silence all opposition to destructive business practices.

Just Stop Oil supporters in prison are political prisoners. They are not there because they disrupted or harmed everyday people – if that were the case, the water company bosses, Post Office execs and those responsible for the Grenfell disaster would be behind bars. Our supporters are in prison because Just Stop Oil threatens the profits of the fossil fuel industry.

We say to the government you can lock us up but more people will take our place as the extreme consequences of climate breakdown become more apparent. These 16 were jailed after demanding an end to new oil and gas, something which is now government policy. Just today, a Scottish court has found the development of the largest untapped oil and gas reserves in the UK is unlawful. In other words, Just Stop Oil is right. This is something that will continue to be abundantly clear as this crisis unfolds. We must ensure our leaders are held to account and do the right thing. That is why it is important to step-up and join us outside parliament this April."



Yesterday in the Court of Appeal, Danny Friedman KC and Brenda Campbell KC acting for the appellants argued that the sentences passed down on the 16 Just Stop Oil supporters were unlawful. In particular the sentences did not take account of relevant case law, the conscientious motivations of the Just Stop Oil supporters, their rights under articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the UK's obligations under the Aarhus convention. The appeal is being heard by Lady Chief Justice Baroness Carr, Mr Justice Lavender and Mr Justice Griffiths.

The barristers acting for the appellants said that if these sentences were upheld it would represent a "paradigm shift on criminal law sentencing". Those involved in the miners strike, the anti-fascist protests in the 1930s and even Swampy in the 1990s, did not face the kind of sentences that the nonviolent protesters today face.

According to the barristers, key mistakes made by judges in the sentencing of the 16 included:

-Judge Hehir's failure to take account of Article 10 and 11 rights in the gantry conspiracy and soup throwing cases, thus ignoring the precedent established in the appeal of the Dartford Bridge climbers Morgan Trowland and Marcus Decker (presided over by Baroness Carr).

-Judge Hehir's exclusion of the Aarhus Convention to which the UK is a signatory and his dismissal of comments by Michel Forst, special rapporteur on the rights of environmental defenders, in relation to the gantry conspiracy trial as "merely opinion". [5]

-Judge Collery's sentencing of the M25 Gantry climbers at Basildon Crown Court, where he gave more lenient sentences to defendants who disavowed Just Stop Oil, expressed remorse for their actions or cut contact with Just Stop Oil. All pleaded guilty but one was given a suspended sentence after agreeing to stop taking action with Just Stop Oil, while Gaie Delap, despite having been assessed as a low risk of re-offending was given a 20 months sentence.

-Judge Hehir's sentencing of Roger Hallam in the gantry conspiracy trial for an imagined scenario of gridlock on the M25 leading to food supply shortages and the breakdown of law and order. Roger Hallam said in his trial that he expected the action to cause traffic gridlock and get the attention of the government but it was not aiming to cause the harm that Hehir imagined.

-Judge Graham's sentencing of the Navigator Tunellers at Basildon Crown Court. The Judge applied the worst case scenario of the tunnel collapsing with traffic driving over it despite there being no expert evidence to show there was any risk of that. The road was found safe and re-opened soon after tunellers were removed, after an assessment by National Highways.

- Judge Hehir's categorisation of soup action as violent. Hehir made a comparison between throwing soup on a person and throwing soup on a painting and classed the latter as a form of assault. The activists did not approach a person and throw soup on them. They clearly turned their back to people in the gallery and threw soup on an inanimate object. While it was shocking and provocative, it was still a peaceful and nonviolent act.



Today in the Appeal Court, the Crown Prosecution Service is arguing that the sentencing in all these cases was correct. The chief prosecutor for the Whole Truth 5 trial states that the Aarhus convention is not

relevant to any of the cases in the appeal and that article 10 and 11 do not apply in cases where trespass is involved.

The appeal Judges highlighted that there is a difference between application of Article 10 and 11 as possible defences at trial and their applicability for sentencing. This will be a key matter for them to decide.

The appeal hearing is due to conclude today.

Many of the 16 are in prison under the Public Order Act, legislation that was drafted with the aid of the Policy Exchange. This organisation has received funding from Exxon Mobil, one of the world's largest oil companies, which has a long history of science denialism and funding disinformation, bribing politicians and manipulating media discourse. This legislation did not receive parliamentary assent, and was forced into law using special powers from the time of Henry VIII. This was subsequently found to be unlawful. [6][7]

In 2024 Just Stop Oil successfully won its original demand of 'no new oil and gas'. Now the courts agree that new oil and gas is unlawful. Just Stop Oil supporters are on the right side of history and non-violent civil resistance works. Just Stop Oil will once again be stepping into action this April to demand that governments commit to an international treaty to phase out the extraction and burning of oil, gas and coal burning by 2030. You can help make this happen by coming to a talk and signing up for action at juststopoil.org.

ENDS

Press contact: 07762 987334

Press email: juststopoilpress@protonmail.com

High quality images & video here: <https://juststopoil.org/press-media>

Website: <https://juststopoil.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JustStopOil/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/just.stopoil/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/JustStop_Oil

Youtube: <https://juststopoil.org/youtube>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@juststopoil>

Notes to Editors

[1] Just Stop Oil is committed to nonviolent direct action to resist the destruction of our communities as a result of climate breakdown. We do not consent to plans that will result in 3C of warming and mass death.

We demand an emergency plan to Just Stop Oil by 2030. Our government must work with other governments to end the extraction and burning of all oil, gas and coal by 2030.

Just Stop Oil is a member of the A22 Network of civil resistance projects.

Just Stop Oil 'Blue Lights' policy: our policy is, and has always been, to move out of the way for emergency vehicles with siren sounding and 'blue lights' on.

We take all possible steps to ensure that no-one's safety is compromised by our actions.

[2] The four cases combined in this mass appeal, all involving Just Stop Oil actions are:

The Whole Truth Five – Roger Hallam (5yrs), Cressida Gethin (4yrs), Louise Lancaster (4yrs), Daniel Shaw (4yrs) and Lucia Whittaker De Abreu (4yrs) received record breaking prison sentences for taking part in a Zoom call to discuss planned actions on the M25.

M25 Gantry – George Simonson (2yrs), Theresa Higginson (2yrs), Paul Bell (22 months), Gaie Delap (20 months) and Paul Sousek (20 months) participated in that same action, by climbing onto gantries over the M25.

Navigator Tunnellers – Larch Maxey (3yrs), Chris Bennett (18 months), Samuel Johnson (18 months) and Joe Howlett (15 months) occupied tunnels dug under the road leading to the Navigator Oil Terminal in Thurrock, Essex.

Soup Throwers – Phoebe Plummer (2yrs) and Anna Holland (20 months) threw tomato soup on the glass protecting Van Gogh's Sunflowers painting in October 2022.

[3] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2qv7425gvwo>

[4] <https://juststopoil.org/2024/05/21/just-stop-oils-statement-on-walney-report/>

[5] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/19/not-acceptable-un-expert-condemns-sentences-given-to-just-stop-oil-activists>

[6] <https://www.desmog.com/2023/06/29/rishi-sunak-boasts-that-oil-funded-think-tank-helped-us-draft-crackdown-on-climate-protests/>

[7] <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/high-court-finds-anti-protest-legislation-unlawful/5119798.article>

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Just Stop Oil

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This action is not currently available.



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About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this **Civil resistance works.**

Just Stop Oil ended its street campaign in 2025, whilst we continue our resistance in the courts and prisons.

A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what's next.

[FAQs](#) | [Research](#)

[Contact us](#)



Just Stop Oil is hanging up the hi vis

Press / March 27, 2025

Three years after bursting on the scene in a blaze of orange, at the end of April we will be hanging up the hi vis.

Just Stop Oil's initial demand to end new oil and gas is now government policy, making us one of the most successful civil resistance campaigns in recent history. We've kept over 4.4 billion barrels of oil in the ground and the courts have ruled new oil and gas licences unlawful.

So it is the end of soup on Van Goghs, cornstarch on Stonehenge and slow marching in the streets. But it is not the end of trials, of tagging and surveillance, of fines, probation and years in prison. We have exposed the corruption at the heart of our legal system, which protects those causing death and destruction while prosecuting those seeking to minimize harm. Just Stop Oil will continue to tell the truth in the courts, speak out for our political prisoners and call out the UK's oppressive anti-protest laws. We continue to rely on small donations from the public to make this happen.

This is not the end of civil resistance. Governments everywhere are retreating from doing what is needed to protect us from the consequences of unchecked fossil fuel burning. As we head towards 2°C of global heating by the 2030s, the science is clear: billions of people will have to move or die and the global

economy is going to collapse. This is unavoidable. We have been betrayed by a morally bankrupt political class.

As corporations and billionaires corrupt political systems across the world, we need a different approach. We are creating a new strategy, to face this reality and to carry our responsibilities at this time. Nothing short of a revolution is going to protect us from the coming storms.

We are calling on everyone who wants to be a part of building the new resistance to join us for the final Just Stop Oil action in Parliament Square on April 26th. [Sign up here](#). See you on the streets.

ENDS

Press contact: 07762 987334

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Notes to Editors

[1] Just Stop Oil is committed to nonviolent direct action to resist the destruction of our communities as a result of climate breakdown. We do not consent to plans that will result in 3C of warming and mass death.

We demand an emergency plan to Just Stop Oil by 2030. Our government must work with other governments to end the extraction and burning of all oil, gas and coal by 2030.

Just Stop Oil is a member of the A22 Network of civil resistance projects.

Just Stop Oil 'Blue Lights' policy: our policy is, and has always been, to move out of the way for emergency vehicles with siren sounding and 'blue lights' on.

We take all possible steps to ensure that no-one's safety is compromised by our actions.

[2] During our 3 year history Just Stop Oil supporters have been arrested 3,300 times and imprisoned 180 times, for having broken laws that were drafted by the fossil fuel industry. 7 people are now in prison serving sentences of up to 4 years and 8 are on remand. 16 Just Stop Oil supporters are due to be sentenced in the next few months.

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About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this  **Civil resistance works.**

WE QUIT

WE QUIT

December 31, 2022 by Extinction Rebellion

When XR burst onto the scene four years ago, few could have imagined the seismic shift it would bring about in the climate movement, the climate conversation, and the world at large.

But despite the blaring alarm on the climate and ecological emergency ringing loud and clear, very little has changed. Emissions continue to rise and our planet is dying at an accelerated rate.

The root causes? A financial system prioritising profits over life, a media failing to inform the public and hold power to account, and a reckless government entrenched in corruption and suppressing the right to protest injustice.

As we ring in the new year, we make a controversial resolution to temporarily shift away from public disruption as a primary tactic. We recognise and celebrate the power of

disruption to raise the alarm and believe that constantly evolving tactics is a necessary approach. What's needed now most is to disrupt the abuse of power and imbalance, to bring about a transition to a fair society that works together to end the fossil fuel era. Our politicians, addicted to greed and bloated on profits won't do it without pressure.

We must be radical in our response to this crisis and determined in our efforts to address the climate and ecological emergency, even if it means taking a different approach than before. In a time when speaking out and taking action are criminalised, building collective power, strengthening in number and thriving through bridge-building is a radical act.

XR is committed to including everyone in this work and leaving no one behind, because everyone has a role to play. This year, we prioritise attendance over arrest and relationships over roadblocks, as we stand together and become impossible to ignore.

The conditions for change in the UK have never been more favourable – it's time to seize the moment. The confluence of multiple crises presents us with a unique opportunity to mobilise and move beyond traditional divides. No one can do this alone, and it's the responsibility of all of us, not just one group. It may be uncomfortable or difficult, but the strength of all social, environmental, and justice movements lies in working together. As our rights are stripped away and those speaking out and most at risk are silenced, we must find common ground and unite to survive.

It's no secret that those in power are hoarding wealth and power at the expense of ordinary people, while ignoring the consequences of their greed. Emissions continue to rise, but they couldn't care less. But people do care, and changes to democracy that free and empower the voices of the people through Citizens Assemblies could balance the tables and bring about the positive societal tipping point we all need.

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Just Stop Oil was policed to extinction - now the movement has gone deeper underground

25 April 2025



Justin Rowlatt

Climate Editor

Listen to Justin read this article

Just Stop Oil (JSO) activists are dusting down their placards, digging out their infamous fluorescent orange vests, and charging up their loud hailers — a routine they have gone through many a time before.

It has taken just three years of throwing soup, spraying corn-starch paint and blocking roads - lots and lots of roads – for the troop of climate activists to become one of the country's most reviled campaigning organisations.

They expect hundreds of activists to turn out on Saturday in Central London.

However, despite appearances, this JSO gathering is going to be very different from what has gone before. For a start, its existence is no secret. And secondly, there is unlikely to be any of the mass disruption that has been seen previously.

In fact, this is their last ever protest. JSO are, in their own words, "hanging up the hi-viz" and ending their campaign of civil disobedience.

The group's official line is that they've won their battle because their demand that there should be no new oil and gas licences is now government policy. But privately members of JSO admit tough new powers brought in to police disruptive protests have made it almost impossible for groups like it to operate.



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| Saturday will mark JSO's last ever protest

Sarah Lunnon, co-founder of JSO, says Saturday's gathering will be a "joyful celebration".

"We've done incredible things together, trusted each other with so much," she says.

The group aren't the only ones who'll be celebrating. Many of the thousands of motorists who've been delayed, art lovers appalled by the attacks on great paintings, or the sports fans and theatre goers whose events were interrupted, will be glad to see the back of them. So too the police. Policing JSO protests has soaked up thousands of hours of officer time and cost millions. In 2023 the Met Police said the group's protests cost almost £20m.

But the end of JSO also raises some big questions, including if this is really the end of disruptive climate protest in the UK or whether being forced underground could spawn new, even more disruptive or chaotic climate action. And there's a bigger strategic question. Despite widespread public concern about the future of the planet, much of the public ended up hostile to JSO. How can the climate movement avoid a repeat of that?

Policing to extinction?

JSO's model involved small groups of committed activists undertaking targeted actions designed to cause maximum disruption or public outrage. But

it had strict internal rules. The actions had to be non-violent, and activists had to be held accountable – they had to wait around to get arrested.

For leaders like Roger Hallam, who was originally jailed for five years for plotting to disrupt traffic on the M25, being seen to be punished was a key part of the publicity.

The police, roused by public anger and hostile media coverage, demanded more powers to stop the "eco-loons", as the Sun newspaper dubbed them, and other protesters. And politicians heeded the call.



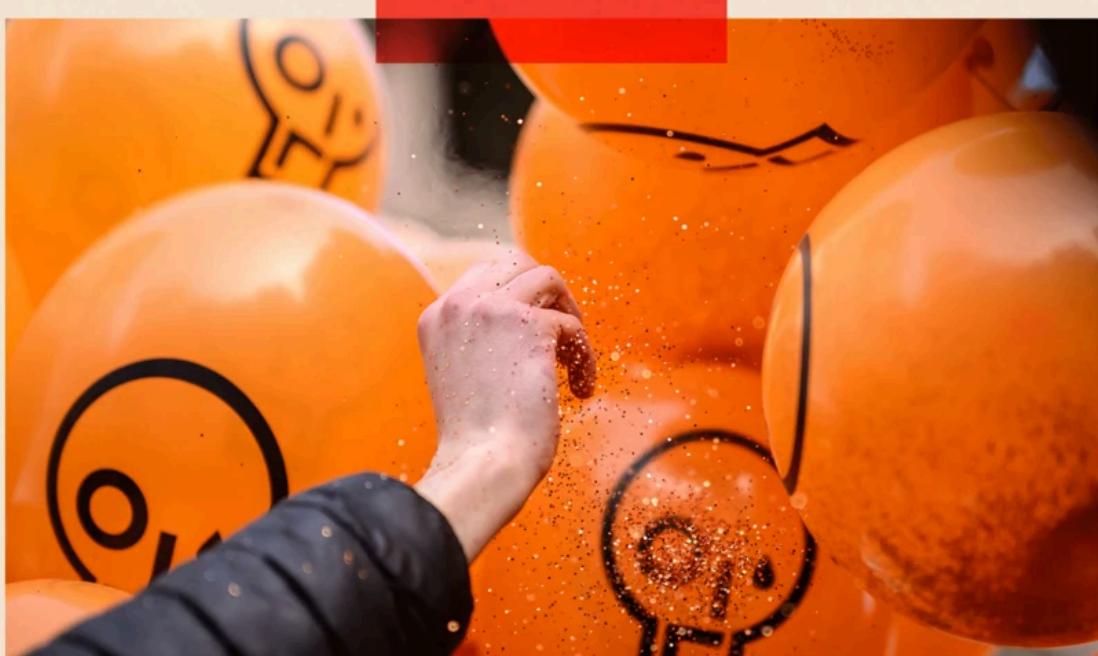
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| JSO had strict internal rules, including that actions had to be non-violent

The biggest change came with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act in 2022. It made "intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance" a statutory offence. A list of loosely defined actions including causing "serious distress, serious annoyance, serious inconvenience or serious loss of amenity" were now potentially serious crimes. And that opened up another legal route for the authorities: the charge of conspiracy to intentionally cause public nuisance. Now even planning a potentially disruptive action could bring substantial jail time.

The Public Order Act the following year broadened the police's powers to manage protests and brought in new criminal offences including "locking on" to objects, causing serious disruption by tunnelling, and interfering with major infrastructure.

At the same time judges, backed by the higher courts, have blocked the right of protesters to claim they had a "lawful excuse" for their actions in the vast majority of protest cases. The Court of Appeal has accepted that the "beliefs and motivation" of a defendant are too remote to constitute lawful excuse for causing damage to a property. It means they can no longer argue to juries that their right to splash paint on buildings, sit in the road, or undertake other disruptive activities, is justified by the bigger threat posed by climate change. In most trials the only question for the court now is whether the defendants did what they are accused of, not why they did it.



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| Some JSO members have been sent to prison for years

"We've seen people being found guilty and sent to prison for years," says JSO's Sarah Lunnon.

David Spencer, a former police officer who now is head of crime and justice at the think tank Policy Exchange, says too often the law had previously "favoured those involved in disruptive protests at the expense of the legitimate interests of other people."

The human rights organisation Liberty sees things very differently, believing the changes amount to an attack on democracy.

Ruth Ehrlich, head of policy and campaigns at the organisation argues the legal changes have "had a chilling effect on the ways all of us are able to speak out for what we believe".

What comes next?

In this context, some climate activists have concluded that it is time to drop the movement's long-standing commitment to accountability – they will undertake disruptive actions but won't stick around to be arrested any more.

Over the past year a group called Shut the System (STS) has carried out a series of criminal attacks on the offices of finance and insurance companies: smashing windows, daubing paint, supergluing locks, and in January this year they targeted fibre optic communication cables.

I spoke to one of the organisers on a messaging app. They argue the legal changes mean the traditional forms of accountable protest aren't viable anymore.

"It would be impossible for people to sustain an effective campaign with people going to prison for years after a single action," the spokesperson told me. "Activists are forced into a position where we have to go underground."



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Some climate activists have concluded that it is time to drop the movement's commitment to accountability

I asked the group what they would say to people who criticise them for breaking the law. They said that in their view the stakes are such that they have to do what they think works.

This is not the first time protesters in the UK have taken clandestine action on climate issues. Over the past few years a group calling itself the Tyre Extinguishers has deflated tyres on sports utility vehicles (SUVs) in several locations, while this year another group drilled holes in the tyres of cars at a Land Rover dealership in Cornwall.

The idea of protesters causing JSO levels of disruption - but unlike JSO, avoiding justice - may send a chill down the spine of many motorists. But Dr Graeme Hayes, reader in Political Sociology at Aston University, thinks only a tiny minority of climate campaigners are likely to get involved in such actions.

He has studied environmental protest groups in the UK for decades and says the more radical groups are finding it increasingly hard to recruit people.

"There is a very strong, profound ethical commitment to being non-violent within the climate movement so I think whatever it does will be based on those principles," he says.

'Disgruntled people find each other'

Others have found legal ways to make their protests heard. A group called the Citizen's Arrest Network (CAN) is attempting to flip the script by using the law of public nuisance – implemented so effectively against the disruptive protests of JSO – against the bosses of fossil fuel and other polluting companies.

The group exploits the right, dating back to medieval England, that allows citizens to arrest people they think have committed a crime. CAN put together alleged criminal cases against those company bosses they argue are causing public nuisance by damaging the environment. Then they "arrest" them in public, which involves handing them documents detailing the alleged crimes they are responsible for.

The group claims to have "arrested" a number of executives from fossil fuel and water companies and last month served indictments against Shell and BP to the Crown Prosecution Service. Gail Lynch, one of the organisers, says the group was born out of frustration, "disgruntled people find each other, and they need a mechanism to have their voice heard," she says.

Drawing the line

These days very few elected politicians speak out in favour of JSO's actions. Yet as recently as April 2019 Extinction Rebellion (XR) staged 10 days of protests across the UK that caused widespread disruption and included blocking Oxford Circus in central London with a large pink boat. Instead of

lengthy prison sentences for those involved, the protest leaders were instead rewarded with a meeting with Conservative government ministers.

Within two months the UK parliament had passed a law committing the country to bringing all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Robert Jenrick, then a Treasury minister, was one of the ministers who met XR and was still in post when the Net Zero laws were passed.



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In April 2019 Extinction Rebellion blocked Oxford Circus in central London with a large pink boat

But things are different now and Jenrick, who is now shadow Justice Secretary, is very critical of JSO's actions.

"It was completely unacceptable that ambulances were being blocked and millions of commuters were being subjected to hours of delays and misery," he tells me.

"Just Stop Oil's zealousness has probably set back their cause by alienating the law-abiding majority."



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| JSO has not been looked at favourably by all the public

Polling evidence suggests there is still strong support for climate action amongst the public.

Ahead of the general election last year, the polling organisation More in Common, along with climate think tank ESG, found around 80% of Britons thought it was important that the government cares about tackling climate change. This broad sentiment was echoed across the political board - nearly four out of five Conservative voters and two thirds of Reform voters felt this way.

But despite this, JSO is not well regarded by the public. A 2023 YouGov poll of almost 4,000 people found just 17% had a favourable view of the group.

According to Dr Hayes, what happened with JSO has prompted deep reflection within the climate movement about its future strategy.

There are some within the green movement who will be pleased to see the end of JSO.



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| Some within the green movement will be pleased to see the end of JSO

Rupert Read, a former spokesperson for XR is one of many who believes JSO's message on the urgency of action on climate change got lost in the outrage caused by their disruptive campaigning.

"Just Stop Oil has been effective at getting attention," says Read, "but that's not the same thing as getting real change." They generated a lot of headlines: "[but] sometimes people give you coverage precisely because they think that coverage will be bad for you and your cause."

John Gummer, now Lord Deben, was an environment minister under Margaret Thatcher and chaired the government's watchdog on climate change for a decade. He has been very critical of successive governments' lack of action on climate change.

But Lord Deben believes the disruptive actions of groups like JSO are counterproductive. "I think it annoys people more than it encourages people to think seriously about the issue," he says.

His advice to people who want to see more action on climate change is to use the democratic system more effectively, for example by telling MPs and local councillors about concerns.

Public support

XR's former spokesperson, Mr Read, believes campaigners should now focus on building a mass movement. "If we are going to actually win on this, we need to do something that will bring most people with us because there is no way one gets to win on climate without bringing most people with one," he says.

He's working with the former head of the Green Party, Caroline Lucas, on a new organisation, the Climate Majority Project. It lists prominent Conservatives including Lord Deben among its supporters and aims to use non-disruptive methods. The focus will be building support for climate action by focusing on tackling the impacts of extreme weather in local communities.

"The end game is that we get a situation where the political parties are racing to compete for votes on climate and nature, rather than running away from them," explains Read.

Naturalist and presenter Chris Packham believes "empowering" voters should be the focus. "We need a larger number, a larger percentage of our populace, on board when it comes to being able to talk [...] truth to power."



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| Some climate activists believe that new forms of disruptive protest will emerge in time

But he argues there are real dangers for governments that stifle the voices of those who have legitimate concerns. "If a government is arrogant enough not to listen to people protesting and they have good grounds for protest [...] there are bound to be those people who say we are going to escalate the protest."

He helped organise last year's Restore Nature Now march which brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets and was supported by a whole range of nature focused organisations including big charities like the National Trust and RSPB, as well as campaign groups like JSO.

Packham was hoping that by getting a whole range of activists together on a single stage "they would all see the bigger picture and recognise that there are far more commonalities between them than differences."

But peaceful climate action does not get the same attention as non-peaceful action. "We put between 70,000 and 80,000 people on the streets of London, but because it was a peaceful demonstration made up of kids in fancy dress we didn't get any coverage," says Packham.

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It is in this context that Ms Lunnon of JSO believes new forms of disruptive protest will emerge in time. "The movement is there and will find new ways to confront the government," she says. "Nobody is shutting up shop and calling it a day. We know morally that we have to continue."

However it is clear that, for now at least, the model that made JSO so notorious is dead.

Top picture credit: Getty Images

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Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this  **Civil resistance works.**

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News | Climate

UK activist group Just Stop Oil holds its last climate protest

The group mainly campaigned for UK to end the extraction of oil and gas by 2030.



Just Stop Oil (JSO) climate activists pose for a picture outside the Shell Centre, behind a large banner during a protest march in London [Niklas Halle'n/AFP]

By News Agencies

26 Apr 2025

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British environmental activist group Just Stop Oil has held its [final demonstration](#) in London, ending three years of high-profile climate protest stunts as they moved their focus away from civil disobedience.

On Saturday, several hundred supporters walked peacefully through the centre of the UK capital, from parliament to the headquarters of oil and gas giant Shell, where they removed their familiar high-vis orange vests.

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The group mainly campaigned for the United Kingdom to end the extraction of oil and gas by 2030 and had become one of the country's best-known protest organisations.

In March, the group announced it would halt its headline-grabbing protests, arguing it had accomplished its initial aim of stopping the UK approving new oil and gas projects.

More than 3,000 Just Stop Oil protesters have been arrested since it was founded in 2022 and 11 of them are currently in jail, including 58-year-old co-founder Roger Hallam. Five more are due to be sentenced in May.

Stunts by its activists included targeting [Vincent van Gogh](#)'s Sunflowers painting with tomato soup and daubing the historical landmark Stonehenge with orange paint powder.

They also disrupted theatre and sporting events, including tennis matches at Wimbledon.

Over the years, the actions have drawn condemnation from politicians, police and some sections of the public.

But the group claimed a victory after the UK Labour government halted new oil and gas exploration licences in the North Sea.

Labour has distanced itself from Just Stop Oil, however. Prime Minister Keir Starmer criticised its actions and said protesters should face the full force of the law.

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Mel Carrington, a spokesperson for the protest group, said that while its actions had been “very effective to get press attention”, the re-election of climate change sceptic Donald Trump as US president had made their work more difficult.

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“The repression does make it more difficult to mobilise, and the external environment has changed,” she told the AFP news agency.

Just Stop Oil has been coy about its future strategy, but has said it will “continue to tell the truth in the courts, speak out for our political prisoners and call out the UK’s oppressive anti-protest laws”.

“In the background, we are working with other [similar] groups... to develop a strategy for what comes next,” said Carrington.

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⚠ Just Stop Oil has been the most successful civil resistance campaign in recent UK history, achieving our demand of no new oil and gas licences. Thousands of people have been arrested since 2022, with hundreds spending time in prison. There are still 11 people imprisoned, with more expected to join them in May.

⚠ Just Stop Oil may have finished actions, but we aren't going anywhere. People will continue their resistance in the courts, and something new is building.

⚠ Ordinary people are building a revolution. A new movement rooted in local communities on a scale that Just Stop Oil never dreamt of. Because the fascists are coming. We face 2 degrees of global heating in the 2030s. The super rich are bleeding us dry.

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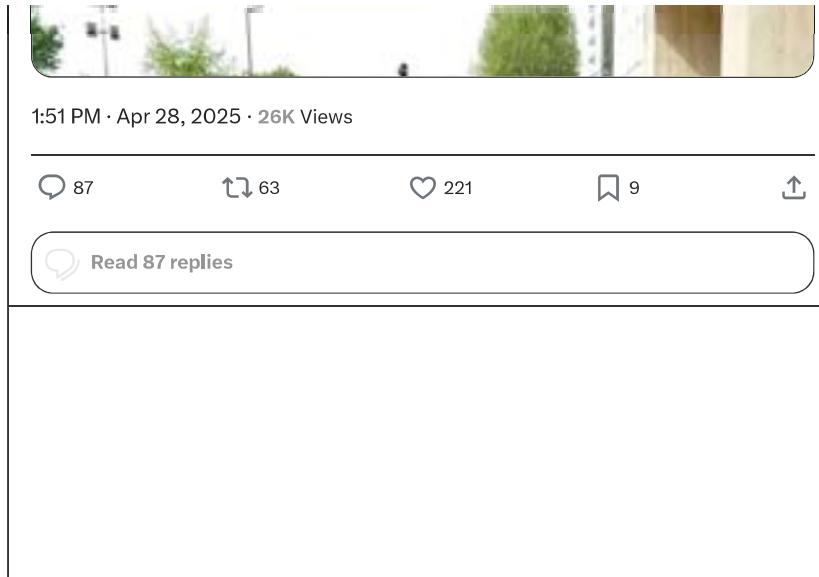
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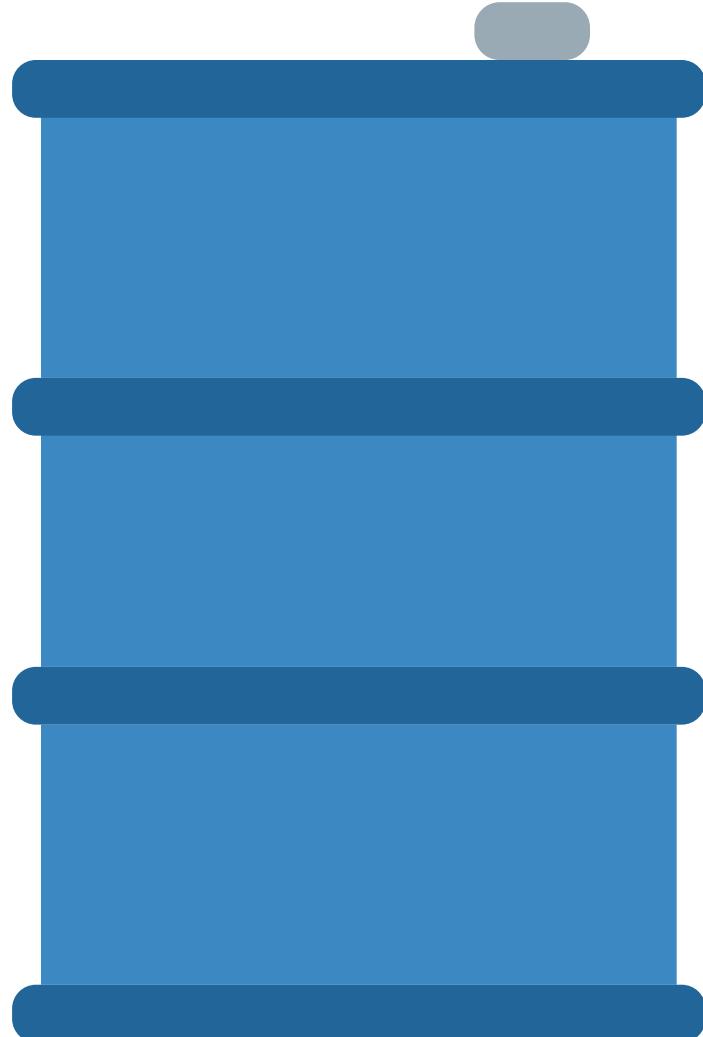
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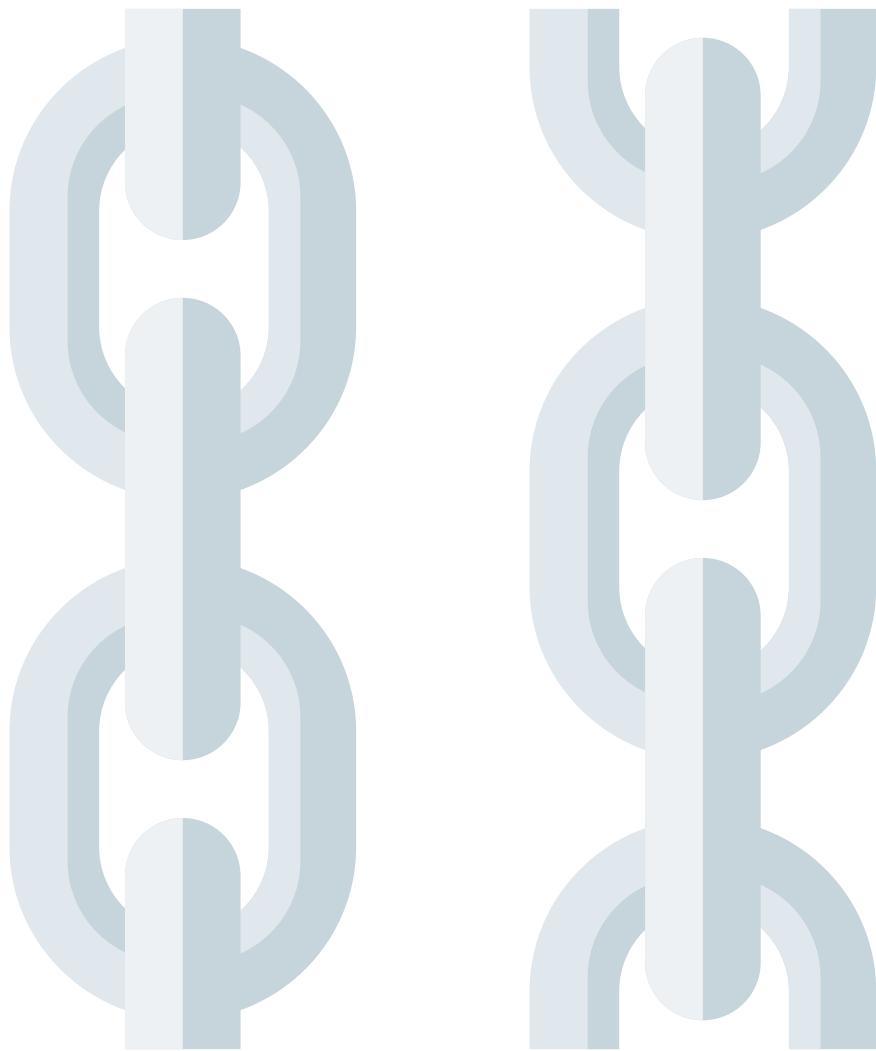
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THE PLAN.



TRUTH

The Government needs to come clean and admit to the public how bad our situation is. We've smashed through the 1.5 degree threshold that was suppose to keep us safe and we now face a rapidly accelerating crisis that threatens ordered civil society and our entire way of life. Large parts of the world are becoming uninhabitable.

Extreme heat and flooding is making growing food impossible and forcing people from their homes. Our healthcare systems, our economies and our safety and security are threatened. We urgently need to phase out oil, gas and coal for good, in order to minimise the harm to our families and communities.



COMMUNITY

We need world leaders to get on with the job of protecting us, but they are prioritising endless growth, corporate profits and the wealth of billionaires over the wellbeing of ordinary people. It's easy to feel powerless when challenging the interests of the powerful, that's why we need to come together and find strength in numbers. We do this by getting to community events, getting trained in nonviolence and when we are ready, joining our local group to take action.



ACTION

History has shown that rapid social change has only ever come from everyday people disrupting the status quo. This is how civil resistance works: applying nonviolent pressure until we force change to happen. It's how the Freedom Riders forced an end to segregated buses in 1961. It's how disabled people won accessible transport in the nineties and how Just Stop Oil won no new oil and gas licenses in 2024. We know how to win, but it's going to take all of us.

I'M READY, SIGN ME UP!

We're part of an

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

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SWITZERLAND

GERMANY

AUSTRIA

NORWAY

NEW ZEALAND

SCOTLAND

CANADA

DENMARK

POLAND



Follow us on social media.

About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this **✓. Civil resistance works.**

Just Stop Oil ended its street campaign in 2025, whilst we continue our resistance in the courts and prisons.

A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what's next.

[FAQs](#) | [Research](#)

Contact us

Press enquiries: juststopoilpress@protonmail.com

General enquiries: info@juststopoil.org

Donation enquiries: juststopoilgiving@protonmail.com

Volunteer enquiries: gettinginvolvedjso@protonmail.com

Book a speaker: contact@juststopoil.org

Stay in touch

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VEST WE HUNG UP THE HI VIS

❤️ On Saturday, hundreds of people marched from St James' Park to the Shell building to mark the end of Just Stop Oil's actions. We hung up our hi vis, and asked the question WHAT'S NEXT?

蟏蛸 Just Stop Oil has been the most successful civil resistance campaign in recent UK history, achieving our demand of no new oil and gas licences. Thousands of people have been arrested since 2022, with hundreds spending time in prison. There are still 11 people imprisoned, with more expected to join them in May.

⚖️ Just Stop Oil may have finished actions, but we aren't going anywhere. People will continue their resistance in the courts, and something new is building.

⚖️ Just Stop Oil may have finished actions, but we aren't going anywhere. People will continue their resistance in the courts, and something new is building.

🔥 Ordinary people are building a revolution. A new movement rooted in local communities on a scale that Just Stop Oil never dreamt of. Because the fascists are coming. We face 2 degrees of global heating in the 2030s. The super rich are bleeding us dry.

💰 Help fund the next phase of nonviolent civil resistance: juststopoil.org/donate



13:51 · 28/04/2025 · 26K Views

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS JUST STOP OIL?

Just Stop Oil is a group of ordinary people in civil resistance to ensure that the government commits to phasing out fossil fuels in the UK by 2030.

WHAT DOES JUST STOP OIL WANT?

We demand that the UK government commits to working with other nations to establish a **legally binding treaty to stop extracting and burning oil, gas and coal by 2030** as well as supporting and financing poorer countries to make a fast, fair, and just transition. This can be accomplished by endorsing the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative](#) and seeking a negotiating mandate to establish the treaty.

WHY DO WE NEED TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS?

We have already passed 1.5°C of global heating and are expected to pass 2°C in the 2030s. The catastrophic effects are increasingly being felt in poor countries and communities across the world. Innocent people already face unlivable conditions. Drowning in their homes. Overheating in the streets. Starving as crops fail. **Burning more fossil fuels will kill hundreds of millions of people and tip us into societal collapse.** We urgently need all countries to phase out the production and use of fossil fuels.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



government to act on the climate crisis in order to protect our families and communities.

We are going to cause disruption, making our demand unignorable.

WHAT IS NONVIOLENT CIVIL RESISTANCE?

Civil resistance is a powerful way for people to nonviolently demand their rights, freedom, and justice. When people wage nonviolent civil resistance, they use tactics such as strikes, boycotts, mass protests and disruption to withdraw their cooperation from the state. We are willing to take part in nonviolent direct action, day after day, week after week, until our demand is met.

We take all possible steps to ensure that no-one's safety is compromised by our actions.

WILL THERE BE ARRESTS?

Probably, yes. There is a long established tradition in the UK of citizens who take action to prevent greater harm when they recognise that the state is acting immorally. In failing to act against entrenched fossil fuel interests and continuing to support the fossil fuel economy our government is directly harming us, **therefore we are asserting our legal right and moral duty to act.**

WHO FUNDS YOU? WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Critical seed funding for **Just Stop Oil** was provided by Climate Emergency Fund and **Adam McKay** in 2022 and 2023. **Just Stop Oil is now largely backed by small donations from the public**, although the Climate Emergency Fund continues to contribute.

Apart from tea and sandwiches we use the funds to organise, pay accommodation, and travel costs, and provide a hardship fund for supporters where possible.



[Click here to be one of the many people who back us with a small donation \(big donations are also welcome!\).](#)

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Attend one of our **in-person meetings** happening all over the country or jump into a **Zoom meeting** if there isn't one near you.



Follow us on social media.

About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this . **Civil resistance works.**

Just Stop Oil ended its street campaign in 2025, whilst we continue our resistance in the courts and prisons.

A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what's next.

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“JSO Plots ‘Criminal Comeback’” GB News Exclusive 16 May 2025 – Transcript

[00:00:00.00] - Speaker 1

Now, I was getting pretty bored of their juvenile antics at the altar of climate change. Their vandals threw soup over artworks in galleries. They defaced Stonehenge. They ambushed theatre plays in the West End and blocked traffic, scaled motorway gantries, and doused private jets in paint, and even disrupted sports events. Just Stop Oil, remember them, they said they were disbanding because their demand to end new oil and gas licences in Britain had been adopted as government policy. Their actions, of course, cost the public purse tens of millions of pounds in police and court time. Well, despite Ed Miliband bowing to their demands, I can exclusively reveal that Just Stop Oil are plotting a very big comeback regardless. Ben Leo Tonight has gained access to secret Just Stop Oil meetings where members have been discussing a big U-turn with plans to cause absolute chaos across Britain by sabotaging Tesla vehicles, picketing petrol stations, and arresting so-called climate criminals. Speaking during an online meeting on Thursday night this week, one coordinator, simply known as Dave, said protests should continue being action-based and warned against becoming peaceful activists such as Greenpeace.

[00:01:11.18] - Speaker 3

We had a fantastic breadth...a range of people in our group. So I'll read out the main bits that I noticed anyway. There was, it kind of like felt like--it seemed like there's a lot of goodwill towards staying action-based, not becoming something more like Greenpeace, or anyway, doing stuff. Certain target of things I think were like very much things like 'Darwin's grave', 'citizens' arrest' things like that which seemed very popular.

[00:01:42.10] - Speaker 1

So the meeting continued with Dave insisting it was very important to keep doing the spicy and naughty stuff in a bid to secure media headlines.

[00:01:52.09] - Speaker 3

It seemed like it was very important that we do the spicy stuff because if we don't do the spicy stuff, it ends up like Chris Packham. Recently he did this thing and he was saying he got no media attention in broadsheets at all. So effectively, to do protest stuff, you have to do naughty stuff.

[00:02:11.16] - Speaker 1

Then interestingly, the group discussed how they'd get protest ideas back to who they describe as a core team.

[00:02:18.23] - Speaker 3

There's ideas about--how do we get ideas back up to the core team, or whatever you think will be the core team, and there's some frustration around that. Maybe figure out a good format, maybe like a 50-word brief, that's all you can do. So it's easy for the people in the core team to process.

[00:02:37.06] - Speaker 1

It's interesting listening to that. I want to know just who the core team is. Who are these professional protesters reporting to? And who's paying them? Chillingly, the group then went on to say they'd carry out citizens arrests on so-called climate deniers.

[00:02:52.00] - Speaker 3

There will be a conversation going on with somebody who was involved in the Citizen's Arrest Network. We were all extremely jealous of the stuff that they've been doing there. Also from them, the idea that they got a lot of good media, but they didn't get as much media as they thought they were. If they had managed to arrest bigger fish or maybe be more spicy, that would have made the difference.

[00:03:15.02] - Speaker 1

Well, there was some introspection from the Just Stop Oil group when they questioned whether they needed to be so unpopular with the public.

[00:03:22.19] - Speaker 3

JSO is a bit radical, which is the least worst thing to deal with coming out. It's tricky, though, as we go along. Sometimes people run out of courage as they're caring for people and they're busy and their lives are going on as well. So a reset now and a bit of a rest might be just what's needed, and we can come back now. We had other people as well who were just wondering about, is direct action really needed? Do we really need to be so unpopular with the public? And in our second go around, there was quite a strong feeling that, yes, it is needed. It's very much needed.

[00:04:00.24] - Speaker 1

And the meeting came to an end when they concluded how they'd proceed with Just Stop Oil's revival, also talking about keeping protesters in safehouses in a bid to keep up morale.

[00:04:11.15] - Speaker 6

It looks like everyone agrees that we need to do—carry on with civil disobedience, direct action, because it's the most effective thing to do. And the camaraderie of the safehouses is a really good thing to building that kind of community.

[00:04:30.01] - Speaker 1

So what we have here is a group of climate zealots planning and plotting to commit criminal acts funded by God knows who and being put up in safehouses like some sort of organised Mafia. Talking of organisation, the climate agenda is indeed an organised agenda with big money behind it. Who is paying to bus these protesters from London and Stonehenge to airports and art galleries and sports stadiums? Who's paying them to live in Just Stop Oil safehouses, where groups of scruffy do-gooders make meticulous plans to make Britain colder and poorer? The police and the government should be cracking down on Just Stop Oil's plans for criminality before they're able to get back off the ground again. The last thing Britain needs is more disruption and outright vandalism from eco-loons, especially when the Labour government is already happy to carry on, rather, the deranged march to net zero. We'll be passing our findings onto the police. Let's get the thoughts now of my panel, the Journalist and Communications Advisor, Linda Jubily, the Senior Reporter at Guido Fawkes, Ellie Weekly, and the former Labour Special Advisor, Paul Richards. Good evening, panel. Good evening. Welcome along. No Eurovision here. Let me tell you that.

[00:05:39.00] - Speaker 1

Good. No breaking out into song. Glad to hear it. Ellie, let's start with you. Welcome along to the show. You're Ben Leo's Tonight debut, I think, is it?

[00:05:45.05] - Speaker 2

I think I was on one with you a couple of months ago. There we go.

[00:05:49.08] - Speaker 1

Well, let's pretend it is. What do you make of this? We infiltrated this meeting. They said they were hanging up their high vis. Now they're planning more criminality.

[00:05:56.17] - Speaker 2

Well, they clearly don't understand that not all publicity is good publicity, right? There's a reason they're so unpopular with these protests, blocking ambulances from going across the road. I mean, in 2023, what, Met spent £20 million on these protests? So they're not popular anymore. Over the last decade, the climate change thing became a new religion, as it were, something for people to fight for, and often backed by celebs, usually ones that take private jets like Emma Thompson and all the rest of it. But now, this protesting and criminal action damages their message, which they obviously have accepted in some ways, but still not enough to think "we're going to carry on doing this". It's unbelievable, really. Yeah, quite right.

[00:06:40.03] - Speaker 1

Linda, should Just Stop Oil, and whatever name they give themselves on their comeback, should they be classed as domestic terrorists?

[00:06:46.24] - Speaker 4

I think that might be going a step too far. But the fact of the matter is, we have to accept that they're not going to stop. I mean, these people have an almost evangelical belief in what they're doing. And although they've had some serious reprimands in terms of prison sentences, I believe, recently, they are going to carry on. I mean, why wouldn't they? They believe in what they're doing. Actually, the point of a protest is to cause massive inconvenience. So they are just going to have to calibrate what they're doing. I'm not saying I advocate this, but they are probably going to calibrate what they're doing by carrying on with protests which they believe may not cause the public such disruption. I can't really understand why they are kicking up a fuss about Tesla cars, though. I know that they hate Elon Musk, but the fact of the matter is electric cars, surely.

[00:07:36.23] - Speaker 1

Who knows? Nothing they do makes sense. Quite frankly, they're a bunch of nutters. Paul, what do you make of it? Quite chillingly, it's been revealed in this meeting, they're going to start carrying out citizens' arrests on what they call "climate deniers". That's quite chilling in my book.

[00:07:51.12] - Speaker 5

Well, they're not going to get very far legally with that, are they? Because that's obviously not what citizens' arrest is for. I mean, any observer of the ultra-left would tell you that they would immediately split into an ultra-faction and a moderate-faction. That happens in all these different movements. So there was this idea they were hanging up their boots and going mainstream, and we've won, and all that was plainly nonsense. There was always going to be a faction that wants to carry on smashing stuff up. And the reason is that they're narcissists. I mean, and Ellie used the word religious, and you said it's like an evangelical—it is like a religious cult, and the people within it, for them, the protest is the end result. The cause is no longer relevant.

[00:08:31.06] - Speaker 1

They are being emboldened, I'd argue, by people such as Ed Miliband, who, I mean, just to quote, quit last time, in April, last time, a few weeks ago, because they said that the government had pledged to renew a new oil and gas licence.

[00:08:42.21] - Speaker 5

But that was plainly nonsense. I mean, that was just smoke and mirrors, wasn't it? I think what this tape reveals, and I bet you that you guys are not the only person or people taping their meetings. The security services are keeping tabs on them, too, because they knew that that was...

[00:08:55.05] - Speaker 1

Do you reckon so?

[00:08:56.10] - Speaker 4

Oh, yeah, I'm sure that's happening.

[00:08:58.04] - Speaker 5

I'm sure they are. I want my money to be spent on that, if that is the case, because they are disrupting the economy and they do stop people going about their business, and they have nothing to do with the labour government.

[00:09:07.22] - Speaker 4

The security service would absolutely have to be monitoring this organisation.

[00:09:11.50] Speaker 5

Of course. Absolutely!

[00:09:12.04] - Speaker 1

I don't know. I think they've got their hands full, Ellie, with jihadis and Islamists and whoever else. I know for a fact that counter terror teams all across the country are stretched. I'm not sure Just Stop Oil will probably take a list of priorities.

[00:09:24.20] - Speaker 2

No, I think they do, actually, because whenever there are protests in all forms, you do see the police out on the street making sure there's not a huge amount of disruption. But when they so-called "hung up their high vis" a couple of weeks ago, they did mention the fact that they wanted their protesters to stop getting arrested. So effectively, the measures that the Tories brought in helped prevent these protests. But I think you're totally right that there's always a spectrum within these groups. You have the extremists and you have the less extreme, and I think those extremists will carry on regardless.

[00:09:54.07] - Speaker 4

But I think it's not just counter-terrorism, it's also intelligence. The fact of the matter is I'd be amazed if some of the key people in these groups were not on watch lists.

[00:10:04.57] - Speaker 1.

Well Roger Hallam who from Extinction Rebellion, he's currently serving prison time, so he's inside.

[00:10:08.53] - Speaker 4

Obviously.

[00:10:09.52] - Speaker 1

I mean, I want to know who's funding these people. I know who funds the previous version of Just Stop Oil—it's the climate emergency fund in LA. One of the massive donors is an heiress of John Getty, the oil baron, who made tens of billions—and isn't it ironic that the heiress of an oil dynasty with billions and billions under their control are now funding Just Stop Oil?

[00:10:30.31] - Speaker 4

Can I just say as well, what you've got to watch for is that Just Stop Oil activists or protesters, don't stop infiltrating local political groups like residence groups or residence associations, and they don't start to turn their march that way—inwards, that I'm sure that has happened.

[00:10:50.11] - Speaker 5.

It's called entrances isn't it, where the extremists will join the mainstream to skew it.

[00:10:54.06] – Speaker 4

That's absolutely right.

[00:10:55.04] - Speaker 5.

The thing I would say though is that young people getting involved need to know that they may end up with a prison sentence. They know—these guys that you've taped seducing young people into this kind of activity—

[00:11:06.55] - Speaker 4.

Well the young girl who threw soup over the Van Gogh painting, I think she—one of them got 20 months, the other one got two years.

[00:11:13.47] - Speaker 5.

I mean it's tragic really, it's awful.

[00:11:15.46] - Speaker 4

It is, it is. But, I mean hilariously, You-Gov did a poll amongst those people who thought that the government wasn't doing enough to fight climate change and 58% agreed that they should have those sort of sentences and a quarter of them thought that actually the judge was too lenient, so you know they are not getting away with this sort of thing.

[00:11:31.29] – Speaker 5

It's a young life ruined though, isn't it? I mean, you know, who has persuaded that person to do that? I mean I feel...

[00:11:37.24] - Speaker 4:

Yeah, you know, when you are young, you are very malleable and easily influenced.

[00:11:41.20] - Speaker 1

Yeah, absolutely.

There was a poll in 2022, a YouGov Poll showing that 58% of UK adults supported Just Stop Oil and their bid to stop new oil and gas. I mean, it was three years ago. But, I don't believe that now.

[00:11:52.09] - Speaker 2

Yeah, I guarantee that's changed since then.

[00:11:55.06] – Speaker 4

I guarantee you, in the area where I live, Just Stop Oil certainly has a component in some organizations, in some associations. I absolutely guarantee you.

[00:12:05.56] – Speaker 1

Ellie, you also mentioned that the police spent, was it £20 million on this process?

[00:12:09.52] – Speaker 2

Well, yes.

[00:12:10.51] – Speaker 1

I'd argue they were there to protect, Just Stop Oil, not to police the criminality and the disruption that Just Stop Oil were carrying out. I mean, how many times have we seen drivers who are completely annoyed at the road being blocked, getting penalised and arrested for getting irate at people sitting in the road?

[00:12:22.39] – Speaker 4

Mm.

[00:12:25.36] – Speaker 1

The police were there to help. Just Stop Oil.

[00:12:28.33] – Speaker 2

Well, I don't know if they were there to help Just Stop Oil, but they were also—they were obviously there to make sure that no violence, um, broke out. And again, I, I really do think that since 2022 and 23, the sentiment has changed. You know, they are not so popular that people are,

[00:12:41.19] – Speaker 4

No.

[00:12:43.18] – Speaker 2

....not saying, they're saying now that actually people blocking roads and stopping people from, you know, going to hospitals via ambulances,...

[00:12:49.09] – Speaker 4

That is terrible.

[00:12:51.10] – Speaker 2

...and it's terrible. And now, and so they are, you know, this—these sorts of protests are damaging the message and they, and they have, and they have done, so.

[00:12:57.04] – Speaker 1

Well look, we, we infiltrated that meeting this week. We're going to be passing on the recordings to the authorities. Because as far as I'm concerned, they're just plotting, criminality.

And if it was anybody else—if it was... if it was somebody planning to, or plotting to, I don't know, do a cannabis grow or sell drugs or, I don't know, anything, then they'd be—they'd be nicked for it, quite rightly, for conspiracy. So why are eco protestors and campaigners immune?

[00:13:21.40] – Speaker 1

In March when Just Stop Oil—or the end of April, March time—announced they were stepping down, they released a statement outside, I think it was Parliament. Supporters of the group announced that after three years of disruptive process, they would be ending their campaign.

The group's Hannah Hunt, whose speech on Valentine's Day 2022, marks the beginning of the campaign, made an announcement outside Downing Street as well. She said:

"Three years after bursting on the scene in a blaze of orange, at the end of April, the Just Stop Oil campaign will be hanging up the high-vis. Just Stop Oil's, demands to end new oil and gas is now government policy making us one of the most successful civil resistance campaigns in recent history".

GB News did contact Just Stop Oil tonight and we are awaiting a response.



Just Stop Oil ✅
@JustStop_Oil

X.com

🔥 It's Official: We're JUST GETTING STARTED

Corrupt politicians serving billionaires. Ordinary people struggling to survive. Media shifting blame from their mates on mega yachts to the people in small boats.

Nothing short of a political and economic revolution will get us out of this mess.

Help build the revolution: juststopoil.org/donate



12:28 · 19/05/2025 · 27K Views

45

40

124

6



Post your reply



From: Just Stop Oil <info@juststopoil.org>

Sent: 21 May 2025 19:29

To:

Subject: Exposed by GB News



Dear

GB News was right for once. We are ["plotting a very big comeback"](#).

While we have stopped taking action as Just Stop Oil after winning our initial demand, we also know that revolutionary change is needed now more than ever. In the three years since Just Stop Oil began in 2022, the necessity to resist has become impossible to ignore.

We've seen the world's billionaires accumulate \$3.7 trillion in wealth, making them now richer than almost every country in the world. Over 50,000 Palestinians have been killed in the ongoing genocide in Gaza, a genocide that is still bankrolled and armed by our own government. At least 166,000 people are being killed due to government inaction on the climate crisis every year with a recent report estimating 4 billion total deaths if we don't take urgent action. The UK is facing a cost of living crisis that doesn't seem to have an end in sight. We've passed the 1.5 C global heating threshold that was internationally agreed upon to limit heating to in the 2015 Paris Agreement. And as the cherry on top of this pile of shit, our rights to dissent to this, to protest in this country are being steadily infringed upon with new laws and powers being introduced to criminalise protest and unprecedented prison sentences being handed out to nonviolent protestors.

It's clear that our government could not care less about ordinary people. Corrupt politicians are serving the interests of billionaires while the media is shifting blame from their mates on mega yachts to the people in small boats all while the world gets hotter and hotter.

Nothing short of a political and economic revolution is going to get us out of this mess. Just Stop Oil was just the beginning. A new campaign is in the works--one that will build on our knowledge and success as Just Stop Oil and will face the grinding injustice of our political and economic system head on. **We're just getting started. You're here at ground zero of the revolution and we need your support to get it off the ground. Can you donate to make it happen?**

[Donate to help build the revolution](#)

We run entirely off of donations and while the street campaign is over, there's still a lot of work to be done. Donations go towards building the next campaign and ensuring it's up to the task of challenging the system AND to supporting the hundreds of brave people who are still being dragged through the courts with fines, prison time, electronic tags, and isolating curfews.



Do you also want to get involved in a more practical way in building the revolution? Interested in learning the skills needed to organize and build resilient communities and movements? Curious about theories of change and nonviolent resistance? Join us on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of June in London as we join forces with Youth Demand for the launch of the Seeds of Revolution training programme. Everyone is welcome, old and young, seasoned veterans and fresh faces. We want to meet you!



Never waste a good crisis – a realist's view of the Hay Festival

Blogs / June 3, 2025

by *Mel Carrington*.

Hats off to the Hay Festival for a range of sessions tackling the multiple and interlinked crises we face – everything from toxic masculinity to misinformation, inequality, extremist ideologies and the big daddy of them all, the climate emergency. No shortage of crises for the authors to diagnose. However, when it comes to a prescription, the choices seemed curiously limited.

I listened with growing disquiet as speaker after speaker name checked the climate crisis and then offered the same old inadequate half-baked solutions that we've been hearing for 30 years. All of them carefully constructed to remain neatly within the prevailing neoliberal economic paradigm and current political arrangements and to avoid advocating for systemic change.

According to Alistair Campbell, Lord John Browne, Tony Juniper and others the solution to our current predicament is to vote, start a charity or buy better stuff. With few opportunities for the audience to

question speakers, the Hay Festival feels less like Bill Clinton's "Woodstock of the mind" and more like a walled garden. Here, the true causes of our headlong descent to extinction are carefully weeded out while hopium and comforting lies are left to bloom, along with the algae on the dying River Wye.

The hopium of voting

I suppose it was unrealistic to expect Alistair Campbell to suggest anything radical, but given the title of his new book – *"But What Can I Do?: Why Politics Has Gone So Wrong, and How You Can Help Fix It"*, I thought he might have some interesting things to say about fixing our broken political system.

I could not have been more wrong. The problem with politics is the people – so it's up to all of us to get engaged, vote, start a campaign or a charity. Not a word on the corruption of the system itself: first past the post, the lobby system, political donations. Nor any recognition that politics already serves his largely middle class audience very well. I don't see the millions of families living in poverty having much time for this. Citizen's assemblies Alistair? Yes, Ireland was very promising, next question....

Deadly realism

John Browne, former CEO of BP spoke frankly on the climate crisis: we're heading for 3C of warming by the end of the century, perhaps even 5C, he added casually. We're 25 years too late in cutting emissions and we will need to adapt, not least to mass migration as vast areas of the world become uninhabitable. But, said the oil man, we can't stop using oil and gas and anyway, think of the business opportunities in geoengineering and carbon capture and storage.

No, he hadn't read the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries Planetary Solvency Report that predicts that we are risking up to 4 billion deaths at 3C of warming. He didn't appear to dispute the role that fossil fuel companies have played in delaying climate action, but he didn't think we shouldn't shut oil and gas companies out of the solution. After all, we need to be realistic.

Be careful what you think

Leor Zmigrod, a political neuroscientist, had some interesting observations about how extremist beliefs affect the brain. Her experiments have shown that people who are less able to adapt to changing rules in a card game experiment are more likely to subscribe to extreme ideologies than others.

What Zmigrod considers an extreme ideology was not stated, but a quick peek at her book reveals that all ideologies are suspect. *"From fascism and communism to eco-activism and spiritual evangelism, ideological groups offer absolute and utopian answers to societal troubles, strict rules for behavior, and an ingroup mentality through dedicated practices and symbols."*

In other words, don't join Friends of the Earth or blame capitalism for planetary overshoot, lest your brains set like concrete. The most cognitively flexible people tend to be more independent, moderate and center-left in their views, she said. The audience at Hay purred.

Fixing capitalism with more capitalism

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England laid the blame for the climate crisis and extreme inequality firmly at the door of the economic system, but then spoke of reforming capitalism using the very solutions that have created the problems in the first place.

Let's replace GDP with another composite indicator of success based on social and environmental goals, he said. It wasn't clear why he was advocating for a deeply undemocratic solution that would reduce to mere arithmetic all the trade offs we face between near term economic survival and the urgent need to both mitigate and adapt to climate collapse.

As for ecosystem services valuation (putting a monetary value on the services that nature provides for us), surely our basic life support systems can escape the grip of competitive markets? There are some things that money cannot and should not be able to buy, not least because they are mine and yours and do not belong to governments and corporations. What next, Tony, oxygen credits? Tell that to the dead fish in the River Wye.

A recipe for disaster

At the bookshop, a massive queue forms, as excited punters wait in line. Yottam Ottolenghi is signing his latest cookbook, dispensing signatures, selfies and winning smiles. To the left, a couple of authors wait patiently, no queue for them. Tim Lang, Professor Emeritus of Food Policy at the University of London and David Omond, former head of GCHQ are promoting their latest crisis themed works. Food resilience, or rather the lack of it, due to our concentrated and brittle food supply chains are no match for Ottolenghi's spiced delights and promise of plenty. It seems there is no market for being well informed and prepared for the crisis that is bearing down on us.

I spoke to Tim. What did he think of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries report? Yes, he agreed, billions of people will die. Is anyone in the government making preparations for a food crisis given his findings on the state of UK civil food resilience? No.

Never mind. At least the Hay Festival is offering reusable coffee cups.

But what can I do?

It's clear that nothing short of a political and economic revolution is going to fix this. We need to take back power from the rich and put ordinary people in charge with citizen's assemblies. Find out how you can help and sign up to take part in the House of the People at www.HouseOfThePeople.UK.

Just Stop Oil has shown that resistance works – ordinary people can bring about change by putting their bodies on the line week after week, risking arrest and even imprisonment. We are building a new street movement rooted in local communities and dedicated to nonviolent civil resistance on a scale that Just Stop Oil never even dreamt of. Help put people on the streets by funding the next phase of civil resistance at juststopoil.org/donate.

Mel Carrington is a spokesperson for Just Stop Oil and a former economist and environmental consultant who spent 20 years working with governments, international financial institutions and corporations on their climate and sustainability strategies.

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This action is not currently available.



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About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this  **Civil resistance works.**

Just Stop Oil ended its street campaign in 2025, whilst we continue our resistance in the courts and prisons.

A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what's next.

New Scientist



UK should expect summers above 40°C in next decade, warns Met Office



just.stopoil and 2 others

...



just.stopoil Remember July 2022?

Over 1000 people died, homes and business burned down, roads melted and train tracks buckled.

If we keep burning fossil fuels, it's only going to get worse.

Help fund the nonviolent revolution. Link in bio — [@just.stopoil](#)

Edited - 1 w



blondiesretro I think we are there. It says 39 degrees on my screen here. (Wiltshire)

1 w 4 likes Reply

View replies (1)



cryptidcorex can the government pls listen to us, now?

1 w 65 likes Reply

View replies (3)



deeliz I wish the new would just present this like the emergency it islike 'Welcome to the News, Emergency Emergency Emergency' The world is on fire! We must act immediately and with all focus on saving our planet

1 w 18 likes Reply

View replies (2)



micoreiko Fun fact: your polyester fiber fabric clothes are all made from fossil fuel too, so I suggest all your members should never wear clothes and live your whole life naked for the respect of oil. THX.

1 w 3 likes Reply

View replies (4)



survivalsupersquad And still the Government allows the aviation industry to plague us with airport expansions and increased flights. It knows that planes spew out dangerous levels of carbon emissions that negatively impact our environment.

1 w 10 likes Reply

View replies (5)



leftfoot.rightfoot Dont forget animal agricultures role in the climate chaos.



3,323 likes

18 June



Add a comment...

Post



Neutral Citation Number: [2025] EWHC 1768 (KB)

Case No: QB-2022-001098

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION

Royal Courts of Justice
Strand, London, WC2A 2LL

Date: 11/07/2025

Before:

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE SWEETING

Between:

(1) ESSO Petroleum Company, Limited

Claimants

(2) Exxonmobil Chemical Limited

- and -

(1) PERSONS UNKNOWN who, in connection with the 'Extinction Rebellion' campaign or the 'Just Stop Oil' campaign, enter or remain (without the Consent of the First Claimant) upon any of the Sites.

Defendants

(2) PERSONS UNKNOWN who, in connection with the 'Extinction Rebellion' campaign or the 'Just Stop Oil' campaign, enter or remain (without the Consent of the First Claimant or the Second Claimant) upon The Chemical Plant, Marsh Lane, Southampton S045 1TX.

(3) PERSONS UNKNOWN who, in connection with the 'Extinction Rebellion' campaign or the 'Just Stop Oil' campaign, enter onto any of the Claimants' property and obstruct any of the vehicular entrances or exits to any of the Sites.

(4) Paul Barnes

(5) Diana Hekt

Timothy Morshead KC and Yaaser Vanderman (instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright LLP) for the Claimants
The Defendants did not appear

Hearing dates: 09/07/2025

Approved Judgment

This judgment was handed down remotely at 10.00am on 11.07.2025 by circulation to the parties or their representatives by e-mail and by release to the National Archives.

.....
THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE SWEETING

Mr Justice Sweeting:

Introduction

1. This is the second annual review of the injunction granted in this matter to Esso Petroleum Company, Limited and ExxonMobil Chemical Limited (“the Claimants”). They seek the continuation of the existing order with some amendments. The First, Second, and Third Defendants are identified as Persons Unknown who are connected with the ‘Extinction Rebellion’ (“XR”) campaign or the ‘Just Stop Oil’ (“JSO”) campaign. The Fourth Defendant (“D4”), Paul Barnes, and the Fifth Defendant (“D5”), Diana Hekt, are named individuals.

Background to the Case

2. The injunction was originally obtained by the Claimants in 2022 in response to environmental protest campaigns. The injunction protects various sites (“the Sites”), which include an oil refinery, fuel terminals, logistic hubs, and compounds across the United Kingdom. The Sites form a significant element of the national energy infrastructure. The Fawley site, for instance, is the largest oil refinery in the United Kingdom, providing 20% of the nation’s refinery capacity.
3. The history of protest action at these Sites and elsewhere is well-documented in the evidence, including in the statements of Mr. Anthony Milne, Mr. Stuart Sherbrooke Wortley, Mr. Nawaaz Allybokus, and Mr. Martin Pullman. These statements describe the significant problems experienced by the Claimants, not as isolated events, but as part of a wider pattern of “direct action” at oil terminals across the country. The Sites are mainly complex industrial units which process or store substantial amounts of volatile and highly flammable material capable of being released in liquid or vapour form. The sites are secure and subject to stringent safety measures and protocols which would not be apparent to a member of the public. They therefore involve managed risk. The consequences of any of the risks involved eventuating present a clear and significant danger to those who work at or visit the Sites, anyone entering unlawfully or protesting at the Sites and, not least, the local population and environment.
4. On 19 July 2023, Linden J granted “final” relief, imposing an injunction effective for a period of five years, subject to annual review (“the Linden Order”). Subsequently, on 29 January 2024, Ellenbogen J reviewed the Linden Order, prior to its first annual review, to consider whether any changes were necessary in the light of the Supreme Court’s judgment in *Wolverhampton CC v. London Gypsies & Travellers* [2024] AC 983 (“Wolverhampton”). Ellenbogen J concluded that no changes were required, granting similar relief with minor “tidying up” in relation to one area no longer requiring protection and another where previously unregistered land had become registered (“the Ellenbogen Order”). The first annual review hearing took place on 10 July 2024 before Tipple J, who concluded that there had been no material change in circumstances warranting the discharge or amendment of the injunction. She ordered that it continued unchanged. D4 and D5 were, as previously, “carved out” of the injunctions due to assurances they had provided.

Relevant Law

5. The purpose of a review hearing for an injunction, particularly one against Persons Unknown, was clearly articulated by the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton*. At [225], the Court observed that a review:

“...will give all parties an opportunity to make full and complete disclosure to the court, supported by appropriate evidence, as to how effective the order has been; whether any reasons or grounds for its discharge have emerged; whether there is any proper justification for its continuance; and whether and on what basis a further order ought to be made.”

6. As Mr Morshead KC observed, this is an area of evolving jurisprudence so that it is also open to the Court to review the operation of continuing injunctive relief in the light of legal developments. That has already taken place in this case following the decision in *Wolverhampton*. I am satisfied that the Claimants have drawn to my attention all of the recent relevant case law in relation to the granting of similar injunctive relief.

7. In cases where the review is uncontested, the primary focus is not to revisit the merits afresh but rather to determine whether the injunction has outlasted the compelling need which led to its initial imposition, in view of any changed circumstances. This approach is consistent with the views expressed by Hill J in *Valero v Persons Unknown* (2025 review) [2025] EWHC 207 (KB) at [20-30], and by Garnham J in *Rochdale MBC v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 1314 (hereafter “*Rochdale*”) at [42-52].

8. I agree that this is the practical and proportionate way to approach a review ordered as part of the original grant of relief. Such a review is also an opportunity to make necessary adjustments in the light of experience of the practical operation of the injunction and changing circumstances. The Court should nevertheless be wary of embarking upon fundamental changes to the scope or nature of injunctive relief at a review hearing rather than requiring a further and full application to be made. I also bear in mind that there is no legal presumption of continuance.

Continued Threat of Direct Action

9. The evidence before me, particularly from the fifth and sixth witness statements of Ms Stebbing demonstrates that the threat of direct action at and against the Sites continues to be a real one.

10. First, there is direct evidence from JSO itself acknowledging the effectiveness of injunctions in deterring their actions. A tweet from 13 September 2023 stated, in relation to protests on highways:

“Disruption is frustrating, but we have no other choice. Fossil fuel companies have taken out private injunctions that makes protests impossible at oil refineries, oil depots and even petrol stations...”

11. This strongly suggests that the injunctions covering oil refineries have compelled JSO to target other infrastructure and, conversely, that the removal of the injunction would

invite renewed activity of the sort that it was designed to prevent.

12. Secondly, other courts have also recently found there to be a continuing threat in cases similar to the present application (see *Valero* (above) and *Exolum Pipeline Systems Ltd v Persons Unknown* - 25 February 2025, Swift J reviewing the order made in that case in 2024 – see *Exolum Pipeline System Ltd & Ors v Persons Unknown* [2024] EWHC 1015 (KB)).
13. Thirdly, specific incidents indicate ongoing interest in the Sites. For example, in December 2023, an individual trespassed on the Fawley Site to film its layout by drone, subsequently publishing the footage online, which has gathered over 146,000 views to date. Whilst some time ago and not overtly a protest, the filming of the site and the high number of continuing views demonstrates a persistent interest in the Claimants' infrastructure. Broader interest in the Claimants' assets across England by environmental activists is also described in Ms Stebbing's evidence.
14. Fourthly, XR and JSO continue to focus their attention on the oil and gas sector. Recent examples include multiple environmental activist groups, including JSO, targeting airports in Europe in July-August 2024, with JSO stating that "areas of key importance to the fossil fuel economy will be declared sites of civil resistance around the world". In October 2024, XR activists blockaded the United Kingdom Oil & Gas plc production site in Surrey, and in January 2025, XR occupied the Manchester office of an insurance broker, because it was involved, it was said, in insuring fossil fuel projects. Direct action by other related groups, such as Shut the System and Youth Demand, also occurred in 2025.
15. Fifthly, whilst JSO issued a press release on 27 March 2025 stating it would be "hanging up the hi vis" at the end of April 2025, the evidence in Ms Stebbing's sixth witness statement casts significant doubt on the finality of this change in approach. The press release itself contained a "Note to Editors" that is hard to reconcile with an unequivocal renunciation of direct action. More significantly, undercover reporting on 16 May 2025 referred to an alleged recording of JSO indicating it had not disbanded, prompting JSO to email its mailing list on 21 May 2025 stating: "GB News was right for once. We are "plotting a very big comeback"". The email further suggested that this renewed campaign might operate under a new title albeit with the same aims and conducted by the same protesters:

"Just Stop Oil was just the beginning. A new campaign is in the works—one that will build on our knowledge and success as Just Stop Oil and will face the grinding injustice of our political and economic system head on. We're just getting started."
16. Similar statements by XR in the past, that it was relinquishing particular forms of protest, have not been honoured. On 19 May 2025, JSO posted a social media photo stating "JUST GETTING STARTED". A Times report in June 2025 indicated JSO activists were recruiting for Youth Demand, with events advertised using the JSO logo, and an organiser quoted as saying,

"This is an inhale before we breath out and expand into brand new territory, into something even bigger than we've tried before. This is the start of something genuinely thrilling".

17. As Linden J observed in his judgment in this matter [67]:

“It would have been very easy for Extinction Rebellion or Just Stop Oil to give assurances or evidence to the court that there was no intention to return to their activities of 2021/2022, and no risk of trespass on the Sites or damage to property by protesters in the foreseeable future, but they did not do so.”

18. It may of course be that any leadership or governance that exists within these campaigning movements is limited and that a binding assurance from the centre cannot in fact be given. That in itself would make it difficult to rely upon any announcement that there had been a cessation of the activities at which the injunction is aimed. Equally it continues to be the position that no assurances have been given which leads me to conclude that there remains a real risk of direct action from JSO or XR or those connected with their campaigns.

Service and Provision of Documents

19. I am satisfied that the hearing of this review was properly notified in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Ellenbogen Order. Ms Stebbing’s seventh witness statement details the steps taken, including uploading documents to the webpage, placing copies in clear plastic containers at the Sites, and sending emails to relevant addresses for the First, Second, and Third Defendants. In relation to D4 and D5, service was by email, and where delivery failures occurred for D4, extra measures were taken to provide the information by first-class post.

20. Mr Morshead submitted that the provisions at paragraph 15.1 of the present Order were becoming unwieldy to operate in practice because of the accumulation of documentation produced as a result of the further hearings following the grant of relief. He suggested that if the order were to continue then it would be sensible and necessary to remove the requirement for full paper copies of documents to be deposited, other than the orders themselves (as provided for at paragraph 12), in favour of the links already given on the Warning Notices (see further below) which point to the relevant documents online by means of a link to a website. I agree that requiring the Claimants to maintain a growing library of material at the Sites, in ever larger plastic boxes, is unsatisfactory and may well prove unworkable in future. The solution suggested will meet the requirement to serve the material concerned in an effective way. Links to a website may indeed prove to be a more satisfactory arrangement.

Warning Notices

21. Photographic evidence of four Notices being displayed at all Sites was provided by 13 June 2024 for the annual review hearing. However, it was discovered that Avonmouth and Alton only had two Notices each, and Purfleet had a damaged Notice. These deficiencies had been promptly rectified by ordering new Notices on 11 June 2024.

22. While there was a period where some Sites may not have had the full complement of four Notices, the Claimants have explained that this confusion arose from changes to the wording of the Notices following court orders, and that at all times at least two

Notices were present. Furthermore, other methods of notification, such as website publication and email, were consistently used. I accept the Claimants' submission that this oversight did not cause prejudice to any Persons Unknown, given the other notification steps undertaken. I also note that the Claimants now conduct monthly checks to ensure Notices and containers are in place.

Fourth and Fifth Defendants

23. D4 and D5 remain carved out of the injunction due to their earlier undertakings and assurances. D5 has provided a signed copy of a further undertaking, effective until 31 July 2026 or the date of the next review hearing. However, D4 has not yet returned a signed copy of his undertaking, despite continued efforts by the Claimants to contact him, including through letters sent on 24 June 2025 and 3 July 2025. The Claimants propose a pragmatic course which is to allow them liberty to apply to make D4 subject to the injunctions in the absence of receiving further assurances of the same sort as were originally obtained from him, a course which has already been taken in earlier orders in these proceedings. I agree with that proposal.

Harm

24. The potential harm arising from direct action at the Sites remains substantial and, potentially, dangerous. The operations at the Sites involve hazardous substances, regulated under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015. Entry by untrained protesters who lack appropriate protective clothing or equipment poses significant risks to personal injury and health and safety. Moreover, such actions clearly risk disrupting the Claimants' operations and, consequently, the United Kingdom's downstream fuel resilience, impacting contractual obligations to customers essential for maintaining critical services, including road, rail, and air travel.

Discussion

25. I have to consider whether any reasons or grounds for the discharge of the injunction have emerged since the last review. The principal factual development has been JSO's announcement in March 2025 in relation to "hanging up the hi vis". However, as I have outlined above, the evidence shows, in my view, that this announcement cannot be taken as an unequivocal and final renunciation of direct action. The amorphous nature of the group, combined with the past experience of similar unfulfilled statements by XR, and JSO's subsequent communications and activities, mean that it would be premature to rely on this announcement as a basis for amending or discharging the injunction. The risk of direct action by those connected with the JSO campaign remains real and imminent.
26. In relation to legal developments, there have been discussions in recent cases concerning two procedural matters: (a) how "Persons Unknown" ought to be described; and (b) whether orders against them should include a requirement for permission before a contempt application may be brought.
27. As to the description of "Persons Unknown," the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton* stated at paragraph 221:

“...Even where the persons sought to be subjected to the injunction are newcomers, the possibility of identifying them as a class by reference to conduct prior to what would be a breach (and, if necessary, by reference to intention) should be explored and adopted if possible.”

28. While Nicklin J in *MBR Acres Ltd v Curtin* [2025] EWHC 331 suggested it was "no longer necessary, nor appropriate" to restrain particular categories of defendants for contra mundum injunctions, and Fordham J adopted a similar approach in *University of Cambridge v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 454, I note that Soole J subsequently doubted this position in *University of Cambridge v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 724, reverting to the orthodox approach. I am told that Bourne J at the review hearing of an injunction relating to London City Airports, on 24 June 2025 preferred a more straightforward reading of *Wolverhampton* paragraph 221 and held that this point was procedural, not justifying re-writing orders on review. I find no compelling reason to amend the description of the Defendants in this case when considering it on review save in one respect (see further below). The current description best adheres to the guidance in *Wolverhampton* by identifying a class by reference to conduct notwithstanding the cogent reasons set out by Nicklin J for taking a different course in *MBR*. I do however consider that the prospect of JSO evolving, deliberately, into a differently named campaign essentially involving the same organisation, supporters and protesters is demonstrated on the evidence and requires an adjustment to the description of the Defendants to add “or other environmental campaign” so as not to, potentially, thwart the purpose of the injunction. This course was taken in the City Airport injunction proceedings. Any concern that this may involve a widening of the injunction is tempered by the fact that the description involves conduct that is on its face unlawful and where Convention rights are qualified so that the balancing exercise is heavily in favour of a restraint.
29. As to a requirement for permission before a contempt application may be brought, this measure was adopted in *MBR* and the *University of Cambridge* cases. It is apparent that Nicklin J in *MBR Acres* was significantly influenced by the particular claimants' conduct in that case, which involved trivial and inappropriate contempt applications. However, I observe that the suggestion of a blanket requirement for all newcomer injunctions in protest cases appears to have been made per incuriam given other relevant authorities, such as *AG v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1974] AC 273, *Sectorguard plc v Dienne plc* [2009] EWHC 2693 (Ch), and *PJSC Vseukrainskyi Aktsionernyi Bank v. Maksimov & Ors* [2014] EWHC 4370 (Comm). These cases suggest that the courts already possess adequate mechanisms to address disproportionate committal applications. In the present case, there is no evident need or justification, in my view, to impose a requirement for the Claimants to seek permission before commencing any committal applications. The Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton*, which carefully balanced the interests of landowners and Persons Unknown, did not impose such a requirement. There is no evidence before me that claimants are generally bringing trivial committal applications in cases of this nature. While the specific factual circumstances may have driven the decisions in *MBR Acres* and the *Cambridge* cases, those particular concerns are not present here. Imposing such a permission filter could lead to disproportionate burdens and complexities, potentially requiring multiple hearings and appeals, which would be more stressful for potential defendants and consume significant court resources. It is generally preferable for all matters to be

addressed in one committal hearing unless a specific factual reason necessitates otherwise.

30. I am satisfied that the injunction has been effective to date, as there has been no direct action at the Sites for some years. Indeed, the evidence from JSO itself supports this conclusion, indicating that the existence of injunctions at oil refineries has caused them to target other sites.
31. There remains a proper justification for the continuance of the injunction. A real and imminent risk of direct action at the Sites persists if they were to be left unprotected. This view has been consistently taken by multiple judges in this claim and in other similar claims. The substantial harm, particularly the health and safety risks, to those who are not trained to understand the many hazards at the Sites, underscores the necessity of the injunction. The Defendants have no lawful reason to enter or remain upon these restricted and fenced-off private lands for the purpose of direct action. The evidence has clearly demonstrated that the existence of criminal offences is insufficient to deter the Defendants.

Conclusion

32. I conclude that nothing material has changed since the Ellenbogen Order was made to warrant its discharge or amendment. The evidence demonstrates a continued threat of direct action at the Sites. The injunction has not outlasted its need.
33. It remains necessary for the injunction to continue in its present form subject to the limited amendments referred to above.

END

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION

Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London, WC2A 2LL

Wednesday, 26th August 2025

BEFORE:

MR JUSTICE BOURNE

BETWEEN:

LONDON CITY AIRPORT LTD & ORS

Claimants

- and -

PERSONS UNKNOWN

Defendants

MR T MORSHEAD KC, MS E BARDEN (instructed by Eversheds Sutherland International LLP) appeared on behalf of the Claimant
THE DEFENDANTS were not present and not represented

JUDGMENT

(Approved)

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1. MR JUSTICE BOURNE: At this hearing I conducted the first annual review of injunctions granted at the separate hearings of four claims last year, concerning activities by environmental protestors at a total of ten airports at different locations in England. The relevant airports are identified in each order.
2. The claimants were represented by Mr Morshead, King's Counsel and Ms Baden of counsel. There was no appearance by any defendant or by anyone expressing opposition to the continuation of the injunctions.
3. The injunctions were sought because in 2024, airports in England and elsewhere became targets in campaigns of disruptive environmental protest, notably by the campaigning group, "Just Stop Oil" ("JSO"). Individual airports and groups of airports sought injunctive relief against "Persons Unknown", invoking the "newcomer" jurisdiction as explained by the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton City Council v London Gypsies and Travellers* [2023] UKSC 47, [2024] 1 AC 983 ("Wolverhampton").
4. I have read the judgments given when the original injunctions were granted of Julian Knowles J (20 June 2024, KB-2024-176) HHJ Coe KC (5 July, KB-2024-002132) and Ritchie J (19 July 2024, KB-2024-002317). I have also seen a note of what was said by Jacob J in KB-2024-002473 on 6 August 2024.
5. By way of context, I note that orders were also made at hearings in other claims concerning Heathrow (Julian Knowles J, 24 July 2024), Gatwick (Ritchie J, 19 July 2024) and Southend Airports (Farbey J, 14 August 2024). This review does not encompass those three cases.
6. Each judge was satisfied that an injunction was necessary to restrain the threat of tortious conduct and that it was just and convenient to make an order. In particular, because of threats of unlawful action by protest groups, viewed in the light of some previous incidents, and the potential for such action to cause health and safety risks (to the public, airport staff, emergency services and/or the protestors themselves) and delay and disruption to the public. In addition, each judge was satisfied that it was appropriate to grant injunction against "Persons Unknown."

7. I shall note increase the length of this judgment or extend the corpus of judicial discussions of this broad subject by repeating the statements of legal principle and factual considerations, which were set out by the judges when granting the injunctions last year.
8. It is, in particular, unnecessary for me to explore some distinctive characteristics of these cases which were considered by the judges, notably the fact that the claims concern a combination of (1) land owned by the claimants, (2) land not owned by the claimants but on which there is airport infrastructure and (3) public highways in and around the airports. The injunction granted to London City Airport covers land in category (1) only, whereas the injunctions in the other three cases cover all three categories. The claimants are not seeking any geographical expansion of the injunctions granted last year. London City Airport seeks, and I will grant, permission to amend to reflect a change of ownership of one specific area.
9. The nature of a review hearing of this kind was considered in *Wolverhampton* at paragraph 225, where the Supreme Court observed that the hearing:

“...will give all parties an opportunity to make full and complete disclosure to the court, supported by appropriate evidence as to how effective the order has been, whether any reasons or grounds for its discharge has emerged, whether there is any proper justification for continuance; and whether and on what basis, a further order ought to be made.”
10. In *High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd & Anor v Persons Unknown* [2024] EWHC 1277 (KB), Richie J described the court’s task at a review hearing:

“Drawing these authorities together, on a review of an interim injunction against PUs [Persons Unknown] and named Defendants, this Court is not starting de novo. The Judges who have previously made the interim injunctions have made findings justifying the interim injunctions. It is not the task of the Court on review to query or undermine those. However, it is vital to understand why they were made, to read and assimilate the findings, to understand the sub-strata of the **quia timet**, the reasons for the fear of unlawful direct action. Then it is necessary to determine, on the evidence, whether anything material has changed. If nothing material has changed, if the risk still exists as before and the claimant remains rightly and justifiably fearful of

unlawful attacks, the extension may be granted so long as procedural and legal rigour has been observed and fulfilled.

33. On the other hand, if material matters have changed, the Court is required to analyse the changes, based on the evidence before it, and in the full light of the past decisions, to determine anew, whether the scope, details and need for the full interim injunction should be altered. To do so, the original thresholds for granting the interim injunction still apply.”

11. I have therefore considered whether, since last year’s injunction orders were made, there has been any material change affecting, diminishing or removing the need for them to be in place.
12. Each application for review is supported by a witness statement by Stuart Wortley, a partner in Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP, who represent the claimants. He sets out a chronology of incidents and events, occurring both before and since last year’s injunctions.
13. Of the events postdating any or all of the injunctions, Mr Moreshead emphasises several, including the following:-
 - (a) On 19 July 2024, one of the JSO founders, Roger Hallam, was found guilty with others of conspiring to organised protests to block the N25 motorway in November 2022. He was sentenced to five years in prison, later reduced on appeal to four years.
 - (b) On 24 July 2024, ten JSO activists were arrested at Heathrow Airport, seemingly equipped to be able to cut through fences and/or affix themselves to parts of the land or aircraft. Of those individuals, nine were later found guilty by a jury of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance. Five were sentenced to terms in prison of up to 15 months, and four were given suspended sentences.
 - (c) On 27 July 2024 a protest which was due to occur at London City Airport, was relocated to the Department of Transport.
 - (d) On 29 July 2024, eight JSO activists were arrested at Gatwick Airport on suspicion of interfering with public infrastructure.

- (e) On 30 July 2024, two JSO activists were arrested at Heathrow Airport after spraying orange paint around the Terminal 5 entrance hall and on destination boards in the departure lounge. Following a criminal trial, the jury was unable to return a verdict.
- (f) On 31 July 2024, a protest by JSO and Fossil Free London, was held at the Docklands Light Railway Station, at London City Airport. That being an area excluded from the red line of the injunction.
- (g) On 1 August 2024, six JSO activists were blocked access to the departure gates at Heathrow Terminal 5.
- (h) On 5 August 2024, five JSO activists were arrested on their way to Manchester Airport and were in possession of bolt cutters, angle grinders, glue, sand and banners reading “oil kills”. Four of these individuals were subsequently found guilty of conspiracy to commit a public nuisance and then sentenced to terms of imprisonment, ranging between 18 and 30 months.
- (i) On 21 February 2025, XR held a demonstration at Inverness Airport against climate change.
- (j) On 27 May 2025, JSO made an announcement which at least gave the impression that it had now decided to withdraw from mounting disruptive protests of a direct action nature.
- (k) However, on 18 May 2025, GB News reported that JSO was considering a “dramatic U-turn” and on 21 May 2025, JSO sent a link to its subscribers with the comment, “GB News was right for once. We are ‘plotting a comeback’.”
- (l) On 21 May 2025, London City Airport received intelligence information from the Metropolitan Police of a protest by environmental protest groups, which had been planned at Heathrow Airport, to be held at the Sofitel Hotel on 20 May 2025, where an annual general meeting for Shell was being held and which was within the redline boundary of the injunction obtained by that airport. The protest was relocated to the

Shell head office, “in order to avoid the risk of associated penalties for breaching the injunction.”

(m) Over the weekend of 14 and 15 June 2025, JSO arranged an event described as “Seeds of Rebellion”, which seemingly was part of a training programme – a “summer of resistance training” – where attenders would be taught how “to plan actions that cut through” and to “plant the seeds of the coming non-violent revolution.”

(n) JSO’s fundraising page currently invites donations for –“[A] New campaign [that] is in the works”

14. Mr Wortley’s evidence also mentions activities of other protest groups opposed to the use of fossil fuels including Youth Demand, Extinction Rebellion and Fossil Free London. He refers to disruptive protest activity in 2024 and 2025 by Extinction Rebellion, though not at airports. He also exhibited an email sent by the Metropolitan Police to London City Airport’s security team on 21 May 2025, which referred to the incident relating to the Shell AGM and said:

“...The injunction at [Heathrow Airport] had a real impact on the Shell protest yesterday and builds on your experiences. To remove an injunction now, would open up to further protest . And whilst JSO have stepped down, there appear to be a cycle of new groups emerging and this cannot be ruled out, so maintaining it would be very much recommended.”

15. I accept Mr Moreshead’s submission that that advice from the police is a relevant consideration. Although the announcement by JSO on 21 March 2025 could signal a reduction from the risk of unlawful activity at the airports, there is also clear evidence of a possible U-turn from that announcement. And, as Mr Morshead submits, even if JSO left the scene, it is too early to tell what the effect of that would be, having regard to the possibility of some JSO members continuing to support direct action, and to the continued existence of other protest groups. Nor is it possible to conclude that the risk has been materially reduced or removed by the imprisonment of some JSO activists referred to above.

16. Meanwhile, the substantial, though not total lack of direct action at the airports since the grant of the injunctions is consistent with the injunctions having proved to be an effective deterrent. I accept that removing the injunctions at present would create a real risk of a resumption of activity at airports.
17. When granting the injunctions, the judges last year concluded that enforcement of bylaws and criminal proceedings did not provide an adequate alternative remedy. That, in my view, has not changed.
18. In the circumstances considered as a whole, I conclude that there has been no material change which removes or seriously diminishes the justification or the rationale for the injunctions, and that they should continue in force.
19. Turning to the form of the order, Mr Morshead showed me the decision of Nicklin J in *MBR Acres Limited and Others v John Curtin & Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 331 (KB), which took a different approach of directing an injunction in a protest case, “**contra mundum**”, rather than by describing categories of defendants by reference to the conduct to be prohibited, which would also make service of the claim unnecessary. Nicklin J noted that the court must consider what other or better solutions may be available, having regard to enhanced police and local authority powers. He also indicated that orders should include a requirement that the court’s permission be obtained before any application is made to commit for contempt of court.
20. Mr Morshead submitted that it would be better in this case to retain a description of the intended defendants, by reference to the conduct being enjoined, and that that course was followed in a later decision of Soole J in *Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 724 (KB). He also submitted that a requirement for consent for committal proceedings should not be necessary, having regard to the safeguards built into the injunction and to the impact which applications for consent could have on costs and court resources.
21. In the present cases, the judges last year found it appropriate to describe or define the defendants by specific reference to the type of conduct to be enjoined. Although Nicklin J has identified a possible different approach, it seems to me that on a review

hearing, I should not change the approach taken by the previous judges, where the underlying circumstances have not materially changed. I am also mindful of the need, emphasised by the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton* at paragraph 221, for defendants in injunctions to be defined as precisely as possible. It seems to me that that also favours a continuation of the approach taken last year.

22. Nor am I persuaded to depart from what was ordered last year by adopting a standard wording to define or describe the prohibited acts in the four cases before me. The differences in wording have not created any difficulty for me in conducting this review, and any potential defendant who has already become aware of the injunction in respect of any specific airport may already be aware of the existing wording, and that factor militates against a change.
23. I also accept the submission that it is not necessary to insert a provision requiring consent or permission to be obtained for any contempt application in the event of a breach of the injunction. Although such a provision could provide a helpful safeguard in some “**contra mundum**” cases, as described by Nicklin J in *MVR Acres*, in the present cases, no enforcement issue has arisen so far. That is by contrast with *MBR Acres*, where Nicklin J vigorously criticised the conduct of claimants who pursued a committal application, which he described as frivolous and bordering on vexatious. As Mr Morshead said, claimants who choose to commence committal proceedings for trivial breaches do so at their own risk. The courts have repeatedly said that, in cases which do not appear to have been cited to the court in *MBR Acres*, such as *Sectorguard Plc v Dienne Plc* [2009] EWHC 2693 (Ch), per Briggs J at paragraph 46. Meanwhile, in the circumstances of the present case, I have no reason to expect that such an issue will arise.
24. It seems to me, by way of confirmation, that the steps taken to publicise the orders last year, remain appropriate and sufficient.
25. I will provide for the next review to take place in one year from now. It will remain open for anyone to apply to vary or discharge the orders before then. The cases will again be listed together upon that occasion, but I see no need to consolidate them.

26. I shall ask counsel to finalise the terms of an order whose effect is that the injunctions granted last year will remain in force. For practical reasons, and in principle, that seems to me preferable to the alternative of granting entirely new injunctions.

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Lower Ground, 46 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JE

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This transcript has been approved by the Judge

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KINGS BENCH DIVISION

Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London
WC2A 2LL

Friday, 18 July 2025

BEFORE:

MR DUNCAN ATKINSON KC
(Sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge)

BETWEEN:

GATWICK AIRPORT LTD

Claimant

- and -

**PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUST STOP OIL OR
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN, ENTER OCCUPY OR REMAIN
(WITHOUT THE CLAIMANT'S CONSENT) UPON THAT AREA OF LAND
KNOWN AS LONDON GATWICK AIRPORT (AS SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION
OUTLINED IN YELLOW AND SHADED YELLOW AND BLUE ON THE PLAN 1
ATTACHED TO THE CLAIM FORM**

Defendants

TIMOTHY MORSHEAD KC and EVIE BARDEN appeared on behalf of the Claimant.

APPROVED JUDGMENT

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1. MR DUNCAN ATKINSON KC: On 19 July 2024, the Honourable Mr Justice Ritchie granted an injunction order to the Claimant, Gatwick Airport Limited, which prohibited persons unknown from entering, occupying, or remaining on any part of the airport for the purposes of protesting about fossil fuel or environmental concerns. It was directed that this order should be subject to annual review, and that review has taken place before me today.
2. Gatwick Airport is the second largest in the United Kingdom, and the eleventh largest in Europe, with an average 11,000 passengers per day, or 44 million passengers per year, and with a revenue per annum of £1 billion. Gatwick Airport has statutory powers to make bylaws and under these bylaws persons are not entitled to protest or obstruct the airport or display protest banners and they must leave if requested to do so. They have implied consent to attend for travel and concessions have consent to run their businesses there. Peaceful protest is accommodated through prior arrangement. In addition, the airport's statutory obligations, contained within the Airport Act 1986, include a duty to mitigate risks, including risks relating to the movement of vehicles, to objects on the tarmac, and air navigation. If unsafe conditions arise, there is statutory duty for the airport to stop flights.
3. The context for the present application is the order that was made by Ritchie J last year. At that time, in the summer of 2024, a number of environmental protest groups, in particular Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, planned and undertook a campaign of disruptive protest at the use of fossil fuels and the environmental impact of air travel directed towards airports in the United Kingdom and beyond. Evidence considered by the Court last year referred to actual and planned protests at Farnborough, Stansted, Gatwick and London City Airports. Just Stop Oil twice wrote to the Prime Minister, making demands and requiring compliance against the threat of their campaign of non-cooperation. The evidence identified the serious consequences of unplanned or uncontrolled protests as including a risk to emergency services by having to climb up structures, the knock-on effect on passengers, the effect in relation to jet engines which are sensitive and potentially hazardous, and implications in relation to fuel which could cause an explosion.

4. In another judgment of Ritchie J in response to the same issue in the case of *Leeds Bradford Airport v Persons Unknown* [2024] EWCA 2274, he said (at paragraphs 30 to 31):

"Airports are part of the national infrastructure which is acutely sensitive to terrorist threats and are highly regulated in relation to safety, maintenance and security. They are also complicated organisations involving the [movement] of thousands of members of the public, close to highly combustible materials and within fast-moving and huge pieces of equipment. Such organisations are acutely sensitive to chaotic dysfunction caused by unlawful direct action."

He went on:

"I also take into account the fear, which I think is justified, of the Chief Executive Officers, that terrorism is facilitated by chaos. I take into account the human rights of the passengers, adults and children, families and individuals, whose business trips and family holiday trips could be potentially catastrophically interrupted, delayed or cancelled by disruption at any of these airports in the summer seasons. Although not pleaded it is not irrelevant to take into account the knock-on effect on employment, union members and the businesses which are run in the airports and which run the airports, financially."

The law relevant to the injunction under review.

5. The injunctions granted by Ritchie J, both in the *Leeds Bradford* case and in the present proceedings, were directed towards persons unknown. That such orders are permissible was made clear by the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton City Council and others v London Gypsies and Travellers and others* [2023] UKSC 47. Persons unknown, in this context, means persons who are not identifiable at the date the proceedings are commenced but who are intended to be bound by the terms of the injunction sought. Proceedings are typically a form of enforcement of undisputed rights rather than a form of dispute resolution.

6. Although the facts of that case focused on orders relating to members of the Traveller community, it was made clear that they were not limited to such cases. Indeed, the Court said (at paragraph 235) that “...nothing we have said should be taken as prescriptive in relation to newcomer injunctions in other cases, such as those directed at protesters who engage in direct action by, for example, blocking motorways, occupying the motorway gantries or occupying HS2's land with the intention of disrupting construction. Each of these activities may, depending on the all the circumstances, justify the grant of an injunction against persons unknown including newcomers.”
7. The correct approach, as the Supreme Court identified (at paragraph 236), was that “...each of these cases has called for a full and careful assessment of the justification for the orders sought, the rights which are or may be interfered with by the grant of the order, and the proportionality of that interference. Again, insofar as the applicant seeks an injunction against newcomers, the judge must be satisfied that there is a compelling need for the order. Often the circumstances of these cases vary significantly one from another in terms of the range and the number of people who may be affected by the making or refusal of the injunction sought; the legal right to be protected; the illegality to be prevented; and the right to the respondent's to the application. The duration and geographical scope of the injunction necessary to protect the applicant's rights in any particular case are ultimately matters for the judge having regard to the general principles we have explained.”
8. The Court further identified that such orders should be made subject to review, the purpose of which they identified (at paragraph 225) as being to “...give all parties an opportunity to make full and complete disclosure to the court, supported by appropriate evidence, as to how effective the order has been; whether any reasons or grounds for its discharge have emerged; whether there is any proper justification for its continuance; and whether and on what basis a further order ought to be made”.
9. Against that background, as was made clear for example by Sweeting J in the case of *Esso Petroleum Company Ltd & Anor v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2025] EWHC 1768 (KB) (at paragraph 5 – 8) the court's role now is not to revisit the merits of the case as if *de novo* but, rather, to assimilate each matter sufficiently to take an informed view

about whether the injunction has outlasted the compelling need which led to it being made in the first place in view of any change in circumstances. That, he said, was the best and most proportionate way of dealing with these matters, and he added:

"Such a review is also an opportunity to make necessary adjustments in the light of experience of the practical operation of the injunction and the changing circumstances."

The approach of Ritchie J.

10. In his *ex tempore* ruling, a note of which has helpfully been provided, Ritchie J identified factors necessary to be considered when granting an injunction against persons unknown, as follows:
11. First, "*the substance of the cause of action*": He identified that that included trespass and private and public nuisance, ownership of the roads, bylaws prohibiting protest and consent to enter only for travel purposes. He considered in this case the substance for the cause of action to be valid.
12. Second, "*full and frank disclosure*": He was satisfied the Claimant, through counsel , had provided such full and frank disclosure.
13. Third, "*whether there was sufficient evidence to prove the claim*": He considered the evidence that had been put before him to be more than sufficient to prove that there was a risk of tort being committed at Gatwick Airport, as had been committed elsewhere.
14. Fourth, "*whether there were realistic defences*": The learned Judge's approach last year was to observe in relation to private land that there was no real defence under the Human Rights Act 1998 based on protest because such protest could take place on public land. In relation to third-party land, he considered on balance that the scope of the injunction should cover small parcels of third-party land within the airport in order to provide proportionate necessary protection for the Claimant, protection of the land and for the businesses run within the areas of their own possession. He added that an impingement of the unknown persons' right to freedom of speech was relatively small

compared to the huge damage that might occur if a person unknown decided to run into Gatwick Airport and hide in a third-party store so that they were not to be covered by the terms of the injunction.

15. I pause in my review of the approach of Ritchie J in relation to that consideration of human rights to take notes of the decision in *Hallam & Ors v R* [2025] EWCA Crim 199. There the Lady Chief Justice (at paragraph 36) made clear that trespass does not remove the trespasser from the scope of articles 10 or 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, she went on to make clear that such protest does significantly weaken the protection those rights afford. I am satisfied that decision does not undermine or alter the approach identified by Ritchie J to the question whether there were realistic defences here. In any event, as he found, the impingement of those rights in relation to an unknown person is relatively small compared to the damage that might be caused by such persons. The rights of the Claimant in this regard, and the rights of those legitimately using the airport, far outweigh any such impingement of the rights of the persons who may be affected by this injunction.
16. Returning to Ritchie J analysis, he then considered “*whether there was compelling justification for granting the ex parte and against persons unknown*”. He considered that this was made out, given the very high level of threat that he identified and to which I have already referred.
17. Next, he considered “*whether alternative remedies would be sufficient*”. He took account of the bylaws to which I have made reference, and the penalties that have been imposed under the criminal law in relation to persons who had protested at airports in the past. He was satisfied that damages were not an adequate remedy, and that the alternative remedy under the bylaws was insufficient.

Notice of this application

18. I turn to consider, then, the present application against that background. But before considering it in turn, I consider whether sufficient notice has been given of this application.

19. By reference to section 12, Human Rights Act 1998, where the court is considering whether to grant relief which might affect the exercise of the convention rights to freedom of expression and where persons who may be affected are not represented, I must be satisfied (i) that the applicant has taken all practical steps to notify the respondents, or (ii) that there are compelling reasons why the respondents should not have been notified.
20. In that regard, I have helpfully been provided with two statements from Graeme Robertson, a senior associate of the firm representing the Claimant. He explains in detail what steps have been taken to give notice of this hearing, including the uploading of the application for the continuance of the injunction and notice of the hearing to Gatwick's website, sending emails to a number of addresses that had been identified at the time of Ritchie J's order, together with further email addresses identified since, and the affixing of notices at relevant locations. He further confirms in his second statement the steps that have in fact been taken. Against that background, I am satisfied that proper notice has been given of this application, and that should anyone falling within its scope have wished to make representations, they have had the opportunity to do so. I should add that, in any event, Mr Morshead KC has properly directed my attention to matters that any such person would have been able to raise had they been here.

Events since the order was made.

21. The central question for the purpose of this review is whether this Court can be satisfied that the circumstances which justified the making of the order remain unchanged so that there remains a compelling need for the order to continue.
22. I have been provided with the chronology of events, the details of which are addressed in Mr Robertson's statements. There is, as is properly conceded, evidence in both directions as to changes of circumstance since the order was made. On the one hand, since the order was made there have been protests, or attempts at protests, leading to arrests at Heathrow, London City and Gatwick airports in July of 2024, and at Heathrow and Manchester airports in August. There was a demonstration at Inverness Airport in February 2025.

23. On the other hand, on 27 March 2025, Just Stop Oil made an announcement to the press to indicate that the group was withdrawing from organised protest. I have considered both whether this should have been drawn to the Court's attention earlier, as indicating at an earlier stage that this order was no longer required, and whether that this announcement means that the order is no longer required now. It is right to observe, first, that the terms of Just Stop Oil's announcement are ambiguous. It includes, beyond saying that they are withdrawing from organised protest, references to continued resistance, adding that this is "not the end of civil resistance". The note to editors at the bottom of their release says, in terms, that Just Stop Oil is "committed to non-violent direct action".
24. There is rather more to the position than that announcement might have suggested beyond its terms.
25. GB News reported on 18 May 2025 that this announcement was not Just Stop Oil's settled position. It predicted a dramatic U-turn. On 21 May, far from denying this, Just Stop Oil commented in an email to its members "GB News was right for once. We are plotting a very big comeback". Their email also contains an invitation to donate for continued action.
26. On the same day, a police assessment as to the threat level was emailed to a number of police forces. It considered the level of risk of environmental protests at airports, considering that situation overall. It described the threat in the UK as having returned to dormant, but notwithstanding that overall assessment, it did address a number of active groups. Importantly, that national police assessment was provided by the Metropolitan Police to, amongst others, London City Airport. It did so in the context of providing intelligence that a number of environmental protest groups planned to target the Shell Oil meeting within the area covered by the injunction at Heathrow that had relocated. That email from the Metropolitan Police observed that "...the injunction at Heathrow Airport had a real impact on the Shell protest [...], to remove an injunction now would open up to further protests, and whilst Just Stop Oil have stepped down, there appear to be a cycle of new groups emerging and this cannot be ruled out, so maintaining it would be very much recommended."

27. Further, over the weekend of 14 and 15 June 2025, Just Stop Oil and Youth Demand, another protest organisation, arranged an event described as "Seeds of Rebellion" which, seemingly, was part of a training programme where attendees would be taught "all the theory and practice for pulling off the non-violent democratic revolution that is coming". In keeping with that, Just Stop Oil's fundraising page continues to invite donations for a "new campaign that is in the works".
28. The ambiguous nature of Just Stop Oil's announcement, and the strong reasons to approach it with circumspection, in my judgment, justified the delay in it having been brought to this Court's attention. It has been brought to this Court's attention now, and it has been considered by me.
29. I agree with the analysis of Sweeting J in the *Esso Petroleum* case (at paragraph 25) that "the principle factual development has been Just Stop Oil's announcement in March 2025 in relation to "hanging up the high-vis". However, as I have outlined above, the evidence shows, in my view, this announcement cannot be taken as an unequivocal and final renunciation of direct action. The amorphous nature of the group, combined with the part experience of similar unfulfilled statements by Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil's subsequent communications and activities, mean that it would be premature to rely on this announcement as a basis for amending or discharging the injunction. The risk of direct action by those connected with Just Stop Oil's campaign remains real and imminent."
30. In my judgment, not only does there remain a clear and present risk from Just Stop Oil, not least given the clear difference between its message to the press and its communication to its members, but there remains such a risk from other similar protest organisations. Four other activist groups remain and continue to protest fossil fuels by the use of direct action. No single protest organisation speaks for all such activists. I have been shown and taken note of posts this year from organisations Shut System and Extinction Rebellion, in April and June of this year more particularly, which each refer to continued activism in this regard. Even a complete repudiation of disruptive protests by all such organisations would not exclude the risk of actions by individuals or other splinter groups.

31. Whilst, as has been properly identified to me, a number of the relevant groups have indicated a change of focus, for example to protests in relation to the prohibition of Palestine Action, that does not mean that such organisations, or members of such organisations, given the opportunity, would not continue their environmental activism. There has been no indication from any of these organisations, including Just Stop Oil, that they have abandoned the convictions that has underpinned their actions thus far.
32. I have, in this context, also been referred to the acquittal of a number of protestors in relation to action at Gatwick Airport. They were prosecuted for public order offences and acquitted for reasons set out in the article to which I was taken. In my judgment, that material does not undermine the need for the injunction that is sought here. Indeed, if anything, the fact that other aspects of the criminal law were not able to address trespassing behaviour perhaps underlines the importance of there being an injunction to prevent such activism.

The effectiveness of the order.

33. It is important in this review to consider whether the injunction has been effective in meeting the risk identified in 2024, the continued presence of which risk I have just addressed.
34. It is clear, on the evidence I have seen, that the injunction has been proved to have acted as an effective deterrent. By way of example, (i) two protests due to have occurred at London City Airport were relocated, social media indicating that that was because the protesters involved were aware of the injunction. (ii) It was a Metropolitan Police assessment, to which I have already referred, in relation to Heathrow Airport, that the injunction continued to have an important positive role. (iii) There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of actual or attempted protests since the injunction was made. That, on the evidence I have seen, is not because the threat has gone but because the injunction is managing that threat.
35. That leads me to a further important consideration, alluded to by the Metropolitan Police email in relation to Heathrow Airport. That is that the removal of the injunction would risk making airports such as Gatwick a greater target in the future. That risk

would be all the greater because a number of injunctions have already been granted in relation to a number of other airports. Were Gatwick Airport not to receive the protection of such an injunction, it would be exposed as a greater target. As Linden J put it in the *Esso Petroleum Company Ltd v Person Unknown & Ors* [2023] EWHC 1837 (at paragraph 67), in the context of disruption of oil infrastructure in 2021/2022:

"It appears that the effect of the various injunctions which have been granted... has been to prevent or deter them from taking the steps prohibited by the order of the court, although of course not invariably so. If, therefore, an injunction is refused in the present case, the overwhelming likelihood is that protests of the sort which were seen in 2021 and 2022 will resume."

36. That remains, in my judgment, an astute observation. As Mr Morshead KC submitted, the protest organisations that are of concern are not unsophisticated in their operation. They will recognise the opportunity to protest where an injunction does not prevent them from doing so.

Conclusions.

37. I am satisfied that there remains a compelling need for the injunction made in July 2024, one year on. I reach that conclusion having undertaken the full and careful assessment required. Whilst it is not my task to consider the merits of the order as originally made, in considering whether the order remains necessary I have taken full account of the careful analysis of Ritchie J to which I have referred. That analysis holds good now as it did then.
38. There has not, in my view, been any change of circumstances that means that the order has outlasted the compelling need. On the contrary, I am satisfied that it is the continuation of the order that has addressed, and must continue to address, the risks that have been identified. The order can in the future be reviewed if that picture changes, and will in any event be reviewed in 12 months' time. I am fortified in the view that I have reached, although I stress I have reached my own conclusions, by the fact that

similar injunctions have recently been reviewed and continued by Bourne J in relation to 10 other airports on 24 June of this year.

39. As was recognised by Sweeting J in *Esso Petroleum* Case, it is permissible to make adjustment to the terms of an order in the light of experience of its practical operation. I should, in that regard, address two matters to which my attention has been drawn. That is to the approach of Nicklin J in the decision of *MBR Acres Ltd & Ors v Curtin* [2025] EWHC 331 (KB). First, he identified that "persons unknown" was a sufficient description for defendants in relation to an injunction such as this. In my judgment, by reference to the observations of the Supreme Court in the *Wolverhampton* case (at paragraph 221), it is important that persons unknown are identified, insofar as is possible, so that it is clear whether a person is or is not affected by the injunction. A more detailed description here, is, in my judgment, appropriate, and I take note both of the approach, and the reasons for it, of Sweeting J in the *Esso Petroleum* case in this regard, at paragraph 28 of that judgment.
40. Secondly, Nicklin J required that the claimant should be required to obtain the court's permission before applying to commit any person in protest cases. That approach may well have been appropriate on the facts of the case with which Nicklin J was dealing. Such an approach here, in my judgment, would fail to give proper effect to what was described in the *Wolverhampton* case (at paragraph 152) as equity's essential flexibility.
41. On the facts of this matter, in my judgment, it would be disproportionate to require the Claimant to refer any person to this court effectively twice for permission, first, before committing them, and then when they were committing them. Such double referral is not necessary, in my judgment, to safeguard the rights of any such defendant. In any event, there is no evidence that I have seen of a disproportionate application of this order by this claimant hitherto. Indeed, if anything, their approach hitherto has been a cautious one. Accordingly, therefore, subject to any amendment that is now sought as to the precise terms of this order, I direct that it should continue for a further period of 12 months.

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION

Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre
The Priory Courts, 33 Bull Street
Birmingham B4 6DS

Date: 23 September 2025

Before:

HHJ Emma Kelly sitting as a Judge of the High Court

Between :

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Claimant

- and -

**THE DEFENDANTS LISTED AT SCHEDULE A
TO THIS JUDGMENT**

Defendants

Mr Jonathan Manning (instructed by **North Warwickshire Borough Council, Legal Services**) for the **Claimant**.

The **Defendants** did not attend and were not represented.

Hearing date: 18 September 2025.

Judgment handed down remotely at 10am on 23 September 2025 by circulation to the parties or their representatives by email and by release to the National Archives.

APPROVED JUDGMENT

HHJ Emma Kelly:

Introduction

1. This is the first annual review of an injunction granted in this matter to North Warwickshire Borough Council (“the Council”). The Council seek continuation of the existing order and power of arrest.
2. The Defendants are a combination of ‘Persons Unknown’ and named individuals connected with protest activity at an inland oil terminal known as Kingsbury Oil Terminal (“the Terminal”) in Kingsbury, Warwickshire. None of the Defendants attended or were represented at the review hearing.

Background

3. The claim arose from protest activity that occurred in 2022 inside the perimeter and in the locality of the Terminal. The factual and procedural background to the claim is set out at [3]–[13] and [18]–[43] of the judgment that followed the trial: *North Warwickshire Borough Council v Barber & Others* [2024] EWHC 2254 (KB) (‘NWBC’).
4. On 6 September 2024, I granted a ‘final’ order, prohibiting protests within the boundary of the Terminal and restricting certain protest activity within the locality of the Terminal (‘the Injunction’). A power of arrest was attached to the Injunction, pursuant to s.27 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Injunction was to remain effective until 16:00 on 6 September 2027, subject to annual reviews. The hearing on 18 September 2025 was the first such review.

Service

5. Paragraph 11 of the Injunction granted permission to the Council to serve the Injunction and power of arrest by alternative means. The service requirements fell into one of three categories. Those Defendants (all named individuals) identified in paragraph 11(a) could be served by recorded first class post. Those Defendants (again all named individuals) identified in paragraph 11(b) could be served by email. Those Defendants (some named individuals and some categories of persons unknown) identified in paragraph 11(c) could be served by various alternative methods specified in Schedule 3 to the Injunction. The Claimant was required to complete all of the steps identified in paragraph 1(a)–(h) of Schedule 3 to effect service on the paragraph 11(c) category of Defendants.
6. Paragraph 5 of the Injunction provided the time, date and location of the review hearing. Therefore, even if a Defendant had not been present in court when the Injunction was made on 6 September 2024, they would have been provided with notice of the review hearing on being served with the Injunction.
7. The Council has filed a number of certificates of service in respect of the Injunction and power of arrest. The paragraph 11(a) Defendants were deemed

served on 18 September 2024. The paragraph 11(b) Defendants were deemed served on 16 September 2024.

8. In respect of service on the paragraph 11(c) Defendants, the Council relies on two certificates of service. The first is said to relate to the requirements of paragraph 1(b) – (h) of Schedule 3, and gives a deemed date of service of 26 September 2024. The second certificate relates to the erection of 17 A1 sized signs around the boundary perimeter of the Terminal, required by paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 3, and gives a deemed date of service of 21 December 2024. Mr Manning explained it had taken some time for the signage to be manufactured.
9. During the hearing, I queried whether the Council had complied with paragraph 1(b) of Schedule 3, namely the requirement to place a copy of the Injunction and power of arrest prominently at the entrances to the Terminal. That step did not appear to be referred to in either of the relevant certificates of service. After taking instructions, Mr Manning confirmed that the Council had not placed separate copies of the Injunction and power of arrest at the entrances. The Council's rationale was that the A1 sized signage required by paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 3 provided information about the Injunction and power of arrest, and a QR code link to the documents, and such signage was placed prominently at the entrances. Mr Manning asked the Court to approve the alternative service steps taken to date as amounting to good service of the Injunction and power of arrest on the paragraph 11(c) Defendants. I indicated during the hearing that I was prepared to accede to that submission in circumstances where the aim of publicising the detail of the Injunction and power of arrest in prominent positions at the entrances to the Terminal had still been achieved, albeit via the A1 signage. I do however make it clear that the Court expects a party with the benefit of an alternative service provision to abide by all requirements directed by the Court. It is not appropriate for such a party to take a unilateral decision as to which steps to comply with, rather than making a formal application to vary the terms of alternative service.
10. Paragraph 6 of the Injunction required the Council to file and serve any updating evidence 21 days prior to the review hearing. The Council's updating evidence is contained in the 5th witness statement of Mr Steven Maxey, the Council's Chief Executive, dated 27 August 2025. The Injunction made no provision as to how the updating evidence should be served. It did not need to as paragraph 7 of an earlier order of Soole J, dated 6 December 2023, granted the Council permission to serve any document filed in the proceedings by the methods specified in paragraphs 7(i) to (iii) of that order. As with service of the Injunction, the Defendants were categorised into three groups. The first to be served by recorded first class post, the second by email and the third (which includes the persons unknown Defendants) by a variety of alternative service methods. The paragraph 7(i) Defendants were served by first class post on 30 August 2025. The paragraph 7(ii) Defendants were deemed served by email on 11 September 2025. The paragraph 7(iii) Defendants were deemed served by various alternative means on 28 August 2025.

11. In light of the aforementioned, I am satisfied that the Defendants have been served with the Injunction and power of arrest, and updating evidence, and were thus alive of the review hearing.

Legal Framework

12. The importance of a review hearing, particularly in cases involving persons unknown, was emphasised by the Supreme Court in *Wolverhampton City Council & others v London Gypsies and Travellers & others* [2023] UKSC 47 (“*Wolverhampton*”). At [225] the review hearing:

“...will give all parties an opportunity to make full and complete disclosure to the court, supported by appropriate evidence, as to how effective the order has been; whether any reasons or grounds for its discharge have emerged; whether there is any proper justification for its continuance; and whether and on what basis a further order ought to be made.”

13. A review hearing is not an opportunity to revisit the original merits of the claim afresh. The proper focus of the review is to consider whether anything material has changed since the injunction and power of arrest were granted. Material changes may be factual and/or developments in the law since the order was granted. If there has been a material change or changes, the Court needs to question whether the scope of the injunction needs amending or indeed whether there remains a compelling need for any kind of injunction or power or arrest at all. Such an approach is consistent with the views expressed in a number of post-*Wolverhampton* cases including by Ritchie J in *HS2 v Persons Unknown* [2024] EWHC 1277 (KB) at [32]-[33], Hill J in *Valero v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 207 (KB) (“*Valero*”) at [20]-[23], and Sweeting J in *Esso Petroleum Company v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 1768 (KB) (“*Esso*”) at [5]-[8].

The evidence

14. The Council relies on the updating evidence in Mr Maxey’s 5th witness statement. Mr Maxey has undertaken an internal review of the current need for an injunction and power of arrest, and remains of the view that they are necessary. His reasoning is as follows.
15. First, Mr Maxey states that Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, the main protest groups with which known Defendants to the claim are affiliated, remain active. He points to the current homepage of Just Stop Oil’s website which reads “JUST GETTING STARTED” and boasts that civil resistance is how Just Stop Oil “won no new oil and gas licences in 2024.” The website continues “We know how to win, but it’s going to take all of us” and “A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what’s next.”
16. Second, Mr Maxey states that the Council is still being notified of planned direct-action by other, unaffiliated climate action groups. He states that as recently as July 2025, the police informed the Council of information suggesting direct-

action protests were being planned by environmentalists that summer. He expresses concern that the covert nature of operation of such groups makes it impossible for the Council or police to engage with those in charge of organising such protests to ascertain whether the Terminal is a target and, if so, to discuss how any protest can be conducted safely.

17. Third, Mr Maxey notes that the nature of risks posed by direct action or civil disobedience at the Terminal has not changed. The Terminal continues to operate and hold large volumes of exceptionally flammable products for distribution across the country.
18. Mr Maxey acknowledges that there have not been any further protests since the Injunction was granted but takes the view that the deterrent effect of the Injunction has been instrumental ensuring good order.
19. Mr Maxey gave short oral evidence at the review hearing to update matters since the signing of his 5th statement. He addressed two matters:
 - i) He had attended a meeting of the Strategic Coordinating Group of the Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum the day before the review hearing. At that meeting, the police indicated that they still regard the Injunction and power of arrest as operationally essential and being the mechanism by which order had been restored to the site.
 - ii) On his recent review of Just Stop Oil's website, he noticed a change of emphasis in the direction of their campaign. Whereas previously their stated aim was to stop the granting of new licences to extract oil or gas, he understood that their focus was now on stopping the extraction and burning of oil and gas by 2030. He considered the Terminal's role in the supply chain for oil and gas fuels could continue to make it a potential protest location in connection with the new phase of Just Stop Oil's campaign.

Discussion

20. I consider first whether there has been any material factual change(s) which calls into question the need or required scope of the Injunction.
21. The fact that there has not been any further protest activity at the Terminal since the Injunction was granted does not, of itself, provide evidence that the risk has abated. It is more likely that the Injunction and power of arrest have a deterrent effect. The logic of such an approach was endorsed by Hill J in *Valero* at [34]. The rationale of that conclusion is particularly pertinent in the index claim given the reduction in activity following the granting of the without notice interim injunction and, since September 2022, the cessation of protest activity. By the time of cessation of activity, contempt proceedings had resulted in the imprisonment of a number of protestors.
22. I do not take the view that there has been any material factual change that makes it appropriate to discharge the Injunction or power of arrest. I am satisfied that

there remains a continued real and imminent risk of direct action. The well-publicised statement by Just Stop Oil in March 2025 that it was “hanging up the hi vis” was considered in July 2025 by Sweeting J in *Esso* at [25]. He concluded that the “announcement cannot be taken as an unequivocal and final renunciation of direct action.” The Council has provided evidence of the current wording on Just Stop Oil’s website. The references to “just getting started”, civil resistance and a “new revolutionary direct action campaign” very much suggest that Just Stop Oil do indeed have further direct action planned. I further accept Mr Maxey’s evidence that the Council received police intelligence as to protest activity by other environmentalists, unaffiliated to Just Stop Oil, as recently as July 2025.

23. If individuals are minded to take direct action or other protest activity, the Terminal remains a prominent target. The evidence before the Court is that the Terminal continues to operate as it did when the Injunction was granted. The Terminal remains a prominent cog in the supply chain of oil and gas products for consumption. As described in *NWBC* at [18]-[21], the Terminal is one of the largest oil terminals in the country, holding and transporting millions of litres of highly flammable fossil fuels. The potential consequences of fire or explosion at or in the locality of the Terminal remain extremely grave.

24. I have considered whether there has been any material change in the law since the Injunction was granted. Mr Manning properly drew the Court’s attention to three potential matters of law or procedure that arose from the decision of Nicklin J in *MBR Acres Ltd & others v Curtin* [2025] EWHC 331 (KB) (‘*Curtin*’):

- i) Whether it is necessary or appropriate to identify, clearly, the categories of persons unknown: *Curtin* at [356], [360].
- ii) Whether newcomer persons unknown can be served, even under the terms of an alternative service order: *Curtin* at [357]-[359].
- iii) Whether an injunction should include a requirement that the Court’s permission is obtained before contempt proceedings can be instituted: *Curtin* in [390].

Identifying the categories of persons unknown

25. At [356] of *Curtin*, Nicklin J concluded that “there is now no need carefully to define the category of “Persons Unknown” who are to be defendants to the claim...” In *Esso* at [28], Sweeting J considered the impact of Nicklin J’s decision in the context of an injunction review hearing. He noted differing approaches to the issue in various recent High Court decisions but concluded that the existing detailed description of the persons unknown defendants in *Esso* “best adheres to the guidance in *Wolverhampton* by identifying a class by reference to conduct...”

26. I considered the definition of the persons unknown defendants at the outset of the trial in the index case: see [13] of *NWBC*. Notwithstanding the comments

made in *Curtin*, I am mindful of the Supreme Court's guidance in *Wolverhampton* at [221] that "...where the persons sought to be subjected to the injunction are newcomers, the possibility of identifying them as a class by reference to conduct prior to what would be a breach (and, if necessary, by reference to intention) should be explored and adopted if possible." I remain of the view that current detailed definition of the Persons Unknown defendants 19A, 19B, 19C and 19D best complies with the guidance in *Wolverhampton* and I do not consider it warrants amendment. There is thus no reason to amend the description of the Defendants in this case.

Service of the persons unknown Defendants

27. I am not persuaded that it is appropriate to interfere with the Injunction's alternative service provisions in respect of the persons unknown Defendants. In so far as there is a tension between *Curtin* and *Wolverhampton* as to whether service on persons unknown is required, this Court is bound by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court made repeated references in *Wolverhampton* to the requirement to inform newcomers of an order. For example, at [230]: "...the obligation on the local authority to take steps actively to draw the order to the attention of all actual and potential respondents; to give any person potentially affected by it full information as to its terms and scope, and the consequences of failing to comply with it; and how any person affected by its terms may make an application for its variation or discharge..." Further, at [231]: "any application for such an order must in our view make full and complete disclosure of all the steps it proposes to take (i) to notify all persons likely to be affected by its terms...This will no doubt include placing notices in and around the relevant sites where this is practicable; placing notices on appropriate websites and in relevant publications; and giving notice to relevant community and charitable and other representative groups." The alternative service provisions required by the Injunction remain consistent with the need for publication identified in *Wolverhampton*.

Permission to bring a contempt application

28. The requirement for permission before a contempt application could be brought was adopted in *Curtin*, and also by Fordham J 'in the particular circumstances of the present case' when granting an interim injunction in *University of Cambridge v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 724 ('*Cambridge*') at [30]. However, at the review hearing in *Esso*, Sweeting J at [29] declined to impose such a requirement, noting that the courts already possess adequate mechanisms to address disproportionate committal application and that there was no evidence in the case before him that the claimants were bringing trivial committal applications.

29. I am not persuaded that it would be appropriate to add a permission requirement in the index case. Firstly, whether a permission requirement is appropriate is a fact specific case management decision. There is no evidence on the facts of this case that the Council, nor the police in utilising the power of arrest, have misused the contempt process. Secondly, the facts of the index case are

materially different to *Curtin*, *Cambridge* and *Esso* in that a power of arrest exists. The activation of the power of arrest commences the contempt process, requiring an arrested defendant to be produced before a court within 24 hours. At [103] of *NWBC*, I discussed why a power of arrest was appropriate. Those reasons remain valid. The imposition of permission requirement would completely undermine the utility of the power of arrest.

30. In conclusion, I am satisfied that there have been no material changes to the facts, or any material legal developments, that warrant amendment or discharge of the Injunction and power of arrest. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the Injunction, a further review hearing will take place in 12 months.

HHJ Emma Kelly

SCHEDULE A
SCHEDULE OF DEFENDANTS

(2) THOMAS BARBER
(3) MICHELLE CADET-ROSE
(4) TIMOTHY HEWES
(5) JOHN HOWLETT
(6) JOHN JORDAN
(7) CARMEN LEAN
(8) ALYSON LEE
(9) AMY PRITCHARD
(10) STEPHEN PRITCHARD
(11) PAUL RAITHBY
(14) JOHN SMITH
(15) BEN TAYLOR
(17) ANTHONY WHITEHOUSE
(19A) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, OR WHO INTEND TO, PARTICIPATE IN PROTESTS WITHIN THE SITE KNOWN AS KINGSBURY OIL TERMINAL, TAMWORTH B78 2HA (THE “TERMINAL”) AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS, AND/OR THE GRANT OF LICENCES TO EXTRACT FOSSIL FUELS;
(19B) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, OR WHO INTEND TO, PARTICIPATE IN PROTESTS IN THE LOCALITY OF THE TERMINAL, AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE GRANT OF LICENCES TO EXTRACT FOSSIL FUELS, AND WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH PROTEST, DO, OR INTEND TO DO, OR INSTRUCT ASSIST OR ENCOURAGE ANY OTHER PERSON TO DO, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
(A) ENTER OR ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE TERMINAL;
(B) CONGREGATE AT ANY ENTRANCE TO THE TERMINAL;
(C) OBSTRUCT ANY ENTRANCE TO THE TERMINAL;

(D) CLIMB ON TO OR OTHERWISE DAMAGE OR INTERFERE WITH ANY VEHICLE OR ANY OBJECT ON LAND (INCLUDING BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, CARAVANS, TREES AND ROCKS);
(E) DAMAGE ANY LAND INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) ROADS, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES OR TREES ON THAT LAND, OR ANY PIPES OR EQUIPMENT SERVING THE TERMINAL ON OR BENEATH THAT LAND;
(F) AFFIX THEMSELVES TO ANY OTHER PERSON OR OBJECT OR LAND (INCLUDING ROADS, STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, CARAVANS, TREES OR ROCKS);
(G) ERECT ANY STRUCTURE;
(H) ABANDON ANY VEHICLE WHICH BLOCKS ANY ROAD OR IMPEDES THE PASSAGE OF ANY OTHER VEHICLE ON A ROAD OR ACCESS TO THE TERMINAL;
(I) DIG ANY HOLES IN OR TUNNEL UNDER (OR USE OR OCCUPY EXISTING HOLES IN OR TUNNELS UNDER) LAND, INCLUDING ROADS; OR
(J) ABSEIL FROM BRIDGES OR FROM ANY OTHER BUILDING, STRUCTURE OR TREE ON LAND.
(19C) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, OR WHO INTEND TO, ORGANISE, PUBLICISE OR PROMOTE ANY PROTEST WITHIN THE TERMINAL AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE GRANT OF LICENCES TO EXTRACT FOSSIL FUELS.
(19D) PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, OR WHO INTEND TO, ORGANISE, PUBLICISE OR PROMOTE ANY PROTEST IN THE LOCALITY OF THE TERMINAL, AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS AND/OR THE GRANT OF LICENCES TO EXTRACT FOSSIL FUELS, AT WHICH PROTEST THEY INTEND OR FORESEE OR OUGHT TO FORESEE THAT ANY OF THE ACTS DESCRIBED AS PART OF THE DESCRIPTION OF DEFENDANT 19B WILL BE CARRIED OUT.
(20) JOHN JORDAN
(22) MARY ADAMS
(23) COLLIN ARIES
(24) STEPHANIE AYLETT
(25) MARCUS BAILIE
(28) PAUL BELL
(29) PAUL BELL

(30) SARAH BENN
(31) RYAN BENTLEY
(32) DAVID ROBERT BARKSHIRE
(33) MOLLY BERRY
(34) GILLIAN BIRD
(36) PAUL BOWERS
(37) KATE BRAMFITT
(38) SCOTT BREEN
(40) EMILY BROCKLEBANK
(42) TEZ BURNS
(43) GEORGE BURROW
(44) JADE CALLAND
(46) CAROLINE CATTERMOLE
(48) MICHELLE CHARLESWORTH
(49) ZOE COHEN
(50) JONATHAN COLEMAN
(53) JEANINIE DONALD-MCKIM
(55) JANINE EAGLING
(56) STEPHEN EECCKELAERS
(58) HOLLY JUNE EXLEY
(59) CAMERON FORD
(60) WILLIAM THOMAS GARRATT-WRIGHT
(61) ELIZABETH GARRATT-WRIGHT
(62) ALASDAIR GIBSON
(64) STEPHEN GINGELL
(65) CALLUM GOODE
(68) JOANNE GROUNDS
(69) ALAN GUTHRIE
(70) DAVID GWYNE
(71) SCOTT HADFIELD
(72) SUSAN HAMPTON
(73) JAKE HANDLING
(75) GWEN HARRISON

(76) DIANA HEKT
(77) ELI HILL
(78) JOANNA HINDLEY
(79) ANNA HOLLAND
(81) JOE HOWLETT
(82) ERIC HOYLAND
(83) REUBEN JAMES
(84) RUTH JARMAN
(85) STEPHEN JARVIS
(86) SAMUEL JOHNSON
(87) INEZ JONES
(88) CHARLOTTE KIRIN
(90) JERRARD MARK LATIMER
(91) CHARLES LAURIE
(92) PETER LAY
(93) VICTORIA LINDSELL
(94) EL LITTEN
(97) DAVID MANN
(98) DIANA MARTIN
(99) LARCH MAXEY
(100) ELIDH MCFADDEN
(101) LOUIS MCKECHNIE
(102) JULIA MERCER
(103) CRAIG MILLER
(104) SIMON MILNER-EDWARDS
(105) BARRY MITCHELL
(106) DARCY MITCHELL
(107) ERIC MOORE
(108) PETER MORGAN
(109) RICHARD MORGAN
(110) ORLA MURPHY
(111) JOANNE MURPHY
(112) GILBERT MURRAY

(113) CHRISTIAN MURRAY-LESLIE
(114) RAJAN NAIDU
(115) CHLOE NALDRETT
(117) DAVID NIXON
(118) THERESA NORTON
(119) RYAN O TOOLE
(120) GEORGE OAKENFOLD
(121) NICOLAS ONLAY
(122) EDWARD OSBOURNE
(123) RICHARD PAINTER
(124) DAVID POWTER
(125) STEPHANIE PRIDE
(127) SIMON REDING
(128) MARGARET REID
(129) CATHERINE RENNIE-NASH
(130) ISABEL ROCK
(131) CATERINE SCOTHORNE
(133) GREGORY SCULTHORPE
(135) VIVIENNE SHAH
(136) SHEILA SHATFORD
(137) DANIEL SHAW
(138) PAUL SHEEKY
(139) SUSAN SIDEY
(141) JOSHUA SMITH
(142) KAI SPRINGORUM
(145) HANNAH TORRANCE BRIGHT
(146) JANE TOUIL
(150) SARAH WEBB
(151) IAN WEBB
(153) WILLIAM WHITE
(155) LUCIA WHITTAKER-DE-ABREU
(156) EDRED WHITTINGHAM
(157) CAREN WILDEN

(158) MEREDITH WILLIAMS

Next →

OUR DECLARATION

We are the Last Generation of the old world. We are here today to say we will create a new world – where humanity embraces itself, forgives itself, loves itself and commits to continue our great adventure.

As the Last Generation, we will do whatever it takes to protect our generation and all future generations. As is our inalienable right.

The old world is dying. We are in the last hour,

We are mobilising in our many nations and many cultures. Teams will run projects. Projects will make demands on governments. We are reaching out to anyone who will reach back and join hands to create this new world. If we are refused we will disrupt, week after week, as those who came before us did many times in the struggle for human rights.

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HOME: OPINION

I'm facing 10 years in prison for climate protest. I'd still do it again

The UK's broken justice system is locking young activists like me away – and we'll all suffer the consequences

[Ella Ward](#)

19 May 2025, 12.32pm



Matthew Chattle/Future Publishing via Getty Images

- *Update: On 25th May 2025, Ella was sentenced to 18 months in prison for "conspiracy to intentionally cause a public nuisance".*

My name's Ella. I am a fairly average 22-year-old from Birmingham, central England. I have friends, a supportive family, and hopes and dreams for after graduation. I'm also facing up to ten years in prison.

On 5 August last year, I was arrested along with three others on a side street in Gatley, near Manchester, just after 4am. We had been planning to enter Manchester Airport's airfield – provided it was safe to do so – to block the taxiway by glueing our hands to the tarmac.

We didn't get near the airport, but I have been held in HMP Styal, a women's prison just outside Manchester, ever since. I was charged with conspiracy to cause a public nuisance and spent six months in prison awaiting trial. I was found guilty in February

and will have served three months by the time I am sentenced at the end of this month.

So what drives a young person like me to take nonviolent action as drastic as this? You may have realised that I am a member of Just Stop Oil. At the time of my arrest, I was carrying boltcutters, glue, a hi-vis jacket, and a banner reading 'sign the treaty' in all caps.

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SIGN UP NOW

It was the summer of 2024, the hottest year ever recorded. We were trying to send a message to the British government: it must sign the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make an immediate plan to transition away from oil, gas and coal to prevent further global heating, climate breakdown, and eventual societal collapse.

We wanted to go to an airport – a symbol of the carbon economy – to make clear that the UK's 'business as usual' approach is sending humanity over a cliff edge into destruction, displacement, and massive loss of life.

Our protest may have seemed drastic, but as I tried to explain to the judge and the jury, it was proportionate to the scale of the crisis we are facing. We all stand to lose everything.

Until my arrest, I was a final-year environmental science student at the University of Leeds. As I told the court, the science is clear: burning and extracting fossil fuels is heating the planet and leading to mass crop failure, with food insecurity and starvation for large parts of the world and drastic price hikes on staples for the rest of us. Crop failure on this scale will kill millions and displace many more. A billion people could be on the move within 25 years. The impacts will be felt everywhere, by everyone.

I spoke about my university lecturers, who are prominent climate scientists and are fearful for their children's lives. They feel they aren't being listened to, that the government is implementing policies contrary to science. I said that the knowledge I had gained from studying gave me a responsibility to act.

Court trials like mine are remarkably technical – you must submit a legal defence if you want the judge to allow jurors to consider your motivation, or the context of your actions. I did not have a lawyer and, like my co-defendants, put forward a defence of 'self-defence' and 'necessity'.

I argued that I acted not only to protect the lives of the millions already living on the frontline of climate breakdown, but in defence of myself and young people globally. I told the court how I am afraid for my own future, the future of my brother, my friends, my cousins, and all young people everywhere.

The judge dismissed this, saying the climate crisis does not pose an 'immediate threat to life'. He told jurors to ignore the context around our actions and focus only on whether we had planned to commit a 'crime', saying that anything they'd heard about climate change during the hearing was irrelevant as it was a political or philosophical belief.

But the climate crisis is not a belief, it is science, and science doesn't care about legal defences, judges' rulings or prison sentences. It will continue to worsen and take more lives until governments work together to stop burning fossil fuels.

Related story



How the UK's 'free speech' government banned protest

19 May 2025 | Sian Norris

Conservative ministers loudly championed free speech – right up until they outlawed it. Now, we're all at risk

Over the past six months in prison, this truth has become clearer and clearer. Climate breakdown is no longer something I read about in textbooks, study in lectures, or write about in exams. I'm seeing it through the bars of my cell window.

On New Year's Day, a state of emergency was declared as Greater Manchester was hit by heavy rains. Over a thousand people were evacuated from flooded homes – HMP Styal's prison officers among them – their possessions ruined, and huge disruption caused.

The rising waters cut off the roads leading to the prison, causing a staffing crisis that compromised our safety, with no one allowed to leave their wings or houses. The prison's library and workplaces were flooded, ruining books and leaving some prisoners with no work or activities even after the regime returned to normal.

Such extreme weather is being seen everywhere. On the penultimate day of my hearing, 14 people were killed in floods in the US state of Kentucky, including a seven-year-old girl and her mother, who were washed away in their car. I used my closing speech to tell jurors about this, about how upset it made me. How many people will die before we open our eyes?

The judge ruled it irrelevant.

Having been barred from considering almost everything we'd said, the jury had little choice but to find us guilty. I am grateful to all twelve of them, though, for listening to what we had to say for three weeks and making the only decision they could within the constraints given.

Despite the guilty verdict, being in prison and my impending sentencing, I am at peace. I should have had my whole life ahead of me, and my future now hangs in the balance, but I know that I acted in line with my conscience and moral convictions and, above all, nonviolently: without violence and actively against violence.

Being on trial at a crown court in my early twenties was the scariest thing I've ever done. But what choice did I have? At university, I studied the truth, and now I have to act on it.

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MONTHLY

ONE-OFF



Four Just Stop Oil slow marchers walk free despite “interfering with key national infrastructure”

Court & Prison, Press / July 23, 2025

Four Just Stop Oil supporters were given conditional discharges today after pleading guilty to “interfering with the use of key national infrastructure” by slow marching in 2023 to demand an end to new oil and gas licensing.[1]

Ben Larsen, Tabitha King, Cathy Archer and Poppy Jabelman had joined a slow march at Hendon Way on 13 November 2023. They were not charged until June 2025, when they were accused of interfering with key national infrastructure under Section 7 of the Public Order Act. They pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates Court on 25 June 2025 and were sentenced today. [2]

In pronouncing the sentence, the Judge agreed that a serious offence had been committed but took into account the defendant’s conscientious motivation, guilty pleas and the long delay between the offense and being charged. All four were given a 12 months conditional discharge, costs of £85 each and victim compensation charge of £26.

Poppy Jabelman said:

“Power to the people! Just Stop Oil’s demand has been met keeping 4.4 billion barrels of oil in the ground, that’s 1.3 million barrels of oil for each of our arrests. Direct action works.”

Over 100 people took action at Hendon Way on 13th November 2023, the third week of Just Stop Oil's relentless autumn 2023 campaign of slow marching everyday in London. Police were overwhelmed with insufficient officers and vans to arrest everyone.

Nearly two years down the line and the courts are now full of Just Stop Oil supporters who joined the slow marches. Also taking action that day was Dr. Juliette Brown, a 53 year old doctor from London who appeared in Southwark Crown Court today to plead not guilty to the Section 7 charge along with Jake Causely, Alfie Hewitt, Charlotte Omiotek and Lia Lazarus. Their trial date has been set for November 2027, four years after the action.

In 2023, Dr. Juliette Brown said:

“Democracy doesn’t start and end at the ballot box. Whether it’s marching for a ceasefire in Palestine or taking action with Just Stop Oil, I feel driven to act by government policies that are threatening the lives of countless millions of ordinary people.”

The section 7 offence of interfering with key national infrastructure (such as roads, airports and railways) was introduced in April 2023 with the Public Order Act, specifically to stop Just Stop Oil's slow marching tactics. It carries a penalty of up to 12 months imprisonment. It was used for the first time in October 2023 and at the time of publication over 250 Just Stop Oil supporters have been charged with the offence, many of whom have yet to face trial. [3][4]

In 2024 Just Stop Oil successfully won its original demand of 'no new oil and gas' and on March 27th 2025 announced an end to the campaign of action. However, our supporters will continue to tell the truth in court, to speak out for our political prisoners and to help build what comes next.

ENDS

Press contact: 07762 987334

Press email: juststopoilpress@protonmail.com

High quality images & video here: <https://juststopoil.org/press-media>

Heathrow 10 images here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mByhU4LBPB6t5pMAP_-5dJOkhvsxwTNX?usp=sharing

Website: <https://juststopoil.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JustStopOil/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/just.stopoil/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/JustStop_Oil

Youtube: <https://juststopoil.org/youtube>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@juststopoil>

Notes to Editors

[1] Just Stop Oil is a member of the A22 Network of civil resistance projects.

April 26th 2025 was the last Just Stop Oil action, but our supporters will continue to tell the truth in the courts, speak out for our political prisoners, and call out the UK's oppressive anti-protest laws.

Just Stop Oil continues to rely on small donations from the public to make this happen.

[2] <https://juststopoil.org/2023/11/13/metropolitan-police-overwhelmed-by-slow-march-of-100-just-stop-oil-supporters/>

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-acts-to-stop-highly-disruptive-slow-walking-tactics>

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/30/met-arrest-more-than-60-climate-activists-just-stop-oil-protest-first-use-powers-public-order-act>

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Just Stop Oil

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This action is not currently available.





Follow us on social media.

About us

Just Stop Oil is a nonviolent civil resistance group in the UK. In 2022 we started taking action to demand the UK Government stop licensing all new oil, gas and coal projects. We have won on this . **Civil resistance works.**

Just Stop Oil ended its street campaign in 2025, whilst we continue our resistance in the courts and prisons.

A new revolutionary direct action campaign is coming. Help us build what's next.

[FAQs](#) | [Research](#)

Contact us

Press enquiries: juststopoilpress@protonmail.com

General enquiries: info@juststopoil.org

Donation enquiries: juststopoilgiving@protonmail.com

Volunteer enquiries: gettinginvolvedjso@protonmail.com

Book a speaker: contact@juststopoil.org

Stay in touch

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'Hundreds' of insurers 'lose wifi' as protesters cut fibre optic cables



By [James Cowen](#) | 21 January 2025

'No ethics? No wifi,' protest group says as it calls for 'immediate end to support for new fossil fuel projects'

Major insurers are said to have experienced wifi failures after being targeted by protest group Shut The System.

The group said on Instagram yesterday (20 January 2025) that it had cut the fibre optic cables of "hundreds" of insurance companies in its latest round of protests.

Lloyd's of London, which has over 50 insurance companies and more than 380 registered Lloyd's brokers, as well as the Walkie Talkie, which is where firms such as Ascot, Markel and Tokio Marine Kiln are based, were among buildings targeted in London.



shut_the_system
7,172 followers

[View profile](#)



[View more on Instagram](#)

275 likes

shut_the_system

NO ETHICS? NO WIFI - insurance companies headquartered at some of the most iconic UK sky-scrappers experience wifi failures after #ShutTheSystem activists cut fibre optic cables in the City of London. Full demands
<https://shutthesystem.wordpress.com/>

#Ascot #Hardy #Kiln #LancashireSyndicate #TokioMarine #Markel #ArielRe
#CityofLondon

#StopInsuringFossilFuels #ClimateChage #CovertActivism #EcoGenocide

View all 21 comments

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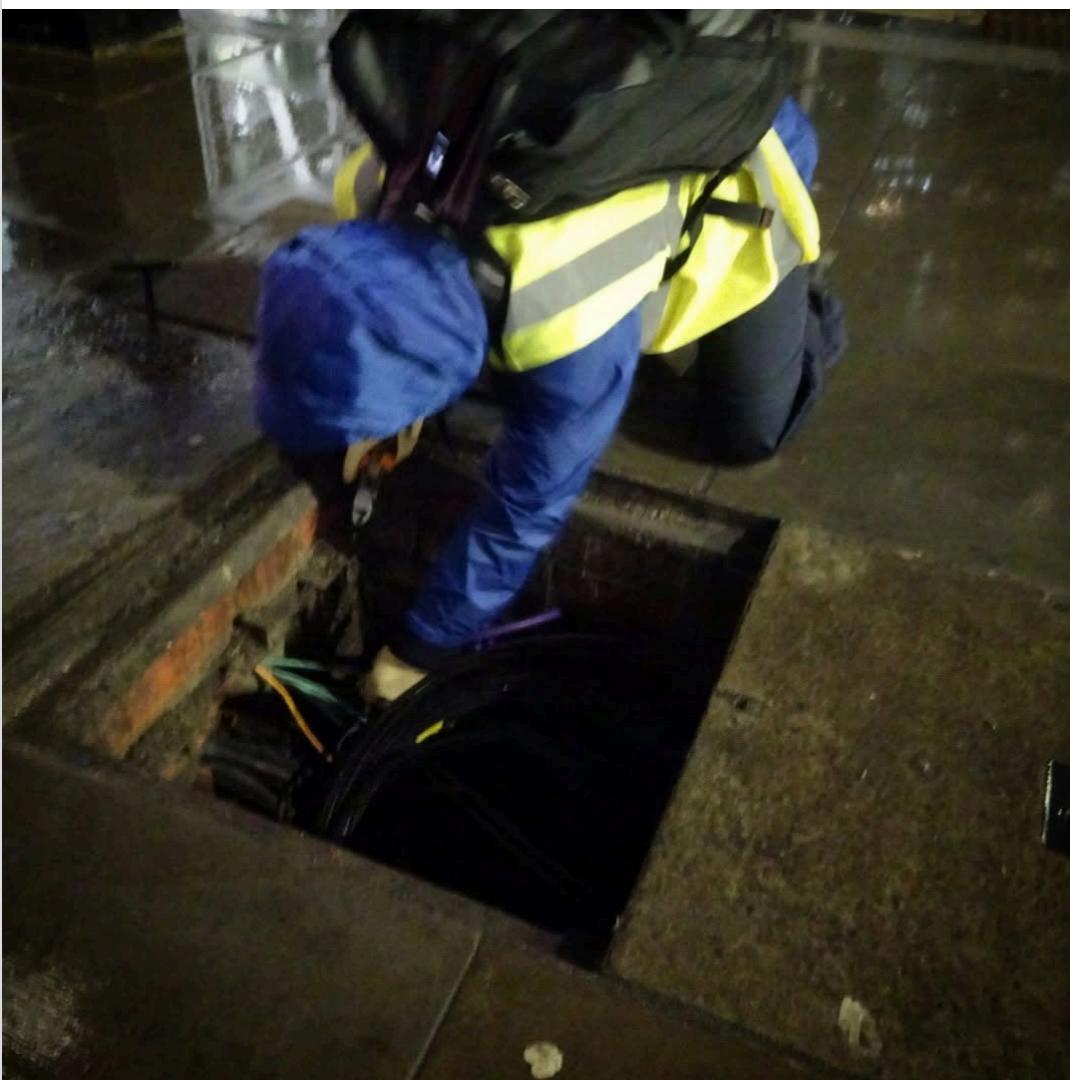
Shut The System also said that it had targeted the offices of insurers in other parts of London and the UK as well, with Axa, AIG, Chubb and Chaucer among firms listed by the group.



shut_the_system

7,172 followers

[View profile](#)



[View more on Instagram](#)

458 likes

shut_the_system

BREAKING NEWS: #ShutTheSystem activists disrupt the wifi systems of hundreds of insurance companies across the UK, demanding an immediate end to support for new fossil fuel projects and mandatory transition plans for all clients involved in the fossil fuel industry

#WalkieTalkie #LloydsofLondon #AXA #Allianz #AIG #Markel #Chubb #WRBerkeley
#Chaucer #TalbotAIG

#StopInsuringFossilFuels #ClimateChange #CovertActivism #EcoGenocide

[View all 12 comments](#)

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The group said it had disrupted the wifi as it wanted an “immediate end to support for new fossil fuel projects and mandatory transition plans for all clients involved in the fossil fuel industry”.

It added: “No ethics? No wifi. Insurance companies headquartered at some of the most iconic UK skyscrapers experience wifi failures after Shut The System activists cut fibre optic cables.”

Insurance Times has contacted firms for a comment on the disruption they may have faced.

Other protest

This comes after Extinction Rebellion (XR) occupied one of Marsh’s UK offices earlier this month (9 January 2025).

[Read: Extinction Rebellion occupy office of Top 50 broker in latest protest](#)

[Read: Climate protesters list 2025 demands to insurance industry](#)

[Explore more insurer-related content here](#), or discover other **[news stories here](#)**

The protest was related to fossil fuels, with protesters calling for the support of such projects to be ended.

In a post on X, XR’s northern arm said: “Local residents are occupying the office lobby in Manchester to ask Marsh to stop ‘funding our destruction’ by insuring fossil fuel projects and instead ‘insure our future’ by moving towards a green economy.”

Meanwhile, Isabelle L’Héritier, European co-coordinator at Insure Our Future, alleged that some insurers’ actions were hindering progress toward reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable energy.

She warned that if they “refuse to stop supporting the expansion of fossil fuels”, the group will “hold them accountable”.



The Destination Insurance Charter:
Improving Talent Pipelines in UKGI
and the London Market

Sponsored by



Tuesday, 21st October 2025 | 2:00 PM (BST)

NEWS | LONDON

Youth Demand protest: Activists block roads in central London as they threaten to 'shut down' city

Protesters blocked a number of key routes in London on Saturday

[f](#) [X](#) [n](#) [✉](#)



BILL BOWKETT | JACOB PHILLIPS

5 APRIL 2025

3 COMMENTS



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I would like to be emailed about offers, event and updates from Evening Standard. Read our [privacy notice](#).

Youth Demand have “swarmed” roads in central London to highlight the situation in [Gaza](#) and the ongoing [climate crisis](#).

Around 65 activists gathered at Brunswick Square Gardens at around 11am before splitting into two groups and blocking traffic on Euston Road near King’s Cross station at 12.15pm.

The groups could be seen holding signs saying “Youth Demand an End to Genocide” and “Stop Arming Israel”, while waving green flares as they blocked the road for around 10 minutes.

Police officers arrived shortly after and issued the group with a warning under Section 7 of the Public Order Act.

RECOMMENDED

Just over an hour later at 1.30pm Youth Demand protesters again split into two groups and blocked further routes in central London.

One group of protesters blocked Old Street Junction until around 1.55pm, while another group of 20 activists took action at Baker Street for around half an hour.

Youth Demand, an offshoot of [Just Stop Oil](#)’s youth wing, has demanded the UK government impose a full arms and trade embargo on Israel and immediately halt the development of new oil and gas projects.

The group, which describes itself as leaderless but guided by a “strategy team”, said politicians had committed a “betrayal of our generation,” and warned of an “unimaginable outbreak of collective power, creativity, love and defiance.”

Youth Demand hit the headlines recently [after six of its female supporters were arrested at a Quaker meeting house in central London](#) — the first such arrests at a Quaker site in living memory, according to the faith group.

Quakers in Britain condemned the move as an “aggressive violation” after Metropolitan Police officers detained the women at Westminster Meeting House on suspicion of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance.

READ MORE

]

]

More than 30 officers were said to have been involved in the arrests, which police said were linked to concerns over plans to “shut down” London this month using disruptive tactics.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

Protesters shout 'justice for genocide'

Mizan Campaigner
@MizanCampaigner · [Follow](#)

Holding it down with [@youth_demand](#) for Palestine & Climate Change

[#FreePalestine #ClimateAction](#)

[Watch on X](#)

12:43 PM · Apr 5, 2025

[i](#)

[Heart 2](#) [Reply](#) [Copy link](#)

[Read 3 replies](#)

Youth Demand activists were moved on by police officers during its pro-Palestinian rally in central London.

The campaigners began gathering at Lincoln's Inn Fields and made their way to King's Cross station.

Some held banners which read "stop arming Israel" while others let off green-coloured flares before being moved along by the Metropolitan Police.

Youth Demand said its supporters divided into two groups and at around 12.15pm a group of 40 blocked traffic on Euston Road near King's Cross.

Scotland issued the protesters with a warning under section seven of the Public Order Act, Youth Demand said, and the group moved on after 10 minutes.

No arrests were made.

[5 APRIL 2025](#)

Youth Demand 'action' meeting offering 'legal advice' to newcomers

Youth Demand 
@youth_demand · [Follow](#)

This Sunday @ Golden Lane Community Centre 14:00-20:30!!

ACTION TRAINING 2pm-6pm
Hear the plan, learn about nonviolent action, and get trained to swarm with us - plus meet others in resistance!
We strongly recommend everyone attends a training before taking

IN-PERSON BRIEFING [Show more](#)

11:08 AM · Apr 4, 2025

 87  [Reply](#)  [Copy link](#)

[Read 12 replies](#)

Youth Rebellion advertised on social media they are hosting an in-person 'action training and briefing' session at Golden Lane Community Centre, which is adjacent to the Barbican in the City of London.

The group states: "These briefings are key for getting all the info you need to join us in the streets — hear the plan, get legal, support, and accessibility info, and find out how you get involved!"

It comes after Youth Demand told [The Guardian](#) that as many as 200 people have expressed interest in joining in upcoming action following the recent police raid at a Quaker meeting house.

 **5 APRIL 2025**

Youth Demand protest is about to begin

🔥 YOUTH DEMAND ACTIONS ARE BEGINNING! 🔥

📢 RALLY: Tuesday 1st April @ 6.30pm, Senate House Library, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

✊ SWARMING ACTION: Saturday 5th April @ 11am, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP

In April, there will be open rallies & actions EVERY Tuesday & Saturday. [Show more](#)

6:04 PM · Mar 26, 2025

ⓘ

 208

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[Read 35 replies](#)

Youth Demand's 'Swarming Action' protest at Lincoln's Inn Fields is scheduled to begin shortly.

We will bring you details from the gathering when we can.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

Youth Demand 'targeted with 150 arrests since inception'



SARTI WAS ARRESTED IN 2023 FOR SPRAYING ORANGE PAINT ON KING'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

JUST STOP OIL

Youth Demand spokesperson Chiara Sarti claims that since the group was launched, its members have been targeted with 150 arrests.

“This kind of police repression is just part of life now,” the PhD student at the University of Cambridge told the Middle Eastern Eye website.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

What has happened at previous Youth Demand protests in London?



Youth Demand began protesting last summer, with many of their stunts occurring in London.

Early action included activists painting the Labour Party headquarters in Southwark red, spraying the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall with paint, and blocking Waterloo Bridge.

Last October, protesters plastered a photo of a Gazan mother and child over the glass of Picasso's 1901 painting 'Motherhood (La Maternité) at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

Another previous demonstration in the capital included three people hanging a banner and laying rows of children's shoes outside Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's Kentish Town home in April last year.

Leonorah Ward, 21, Zosia Lewis, 23, and Daniel Formentin, 24, were each handed suspended prison sentences following the incident.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

Rallies to take place every Thursday and Saturday in April



Youth Demand rallies are taking place every Thursday and Saturday in April.

The first rally commenced this week, when protesters gathered at Senate House Library on Malet Street, Bloomsbury.

Today, the group are scheduled to meet again at 11am at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

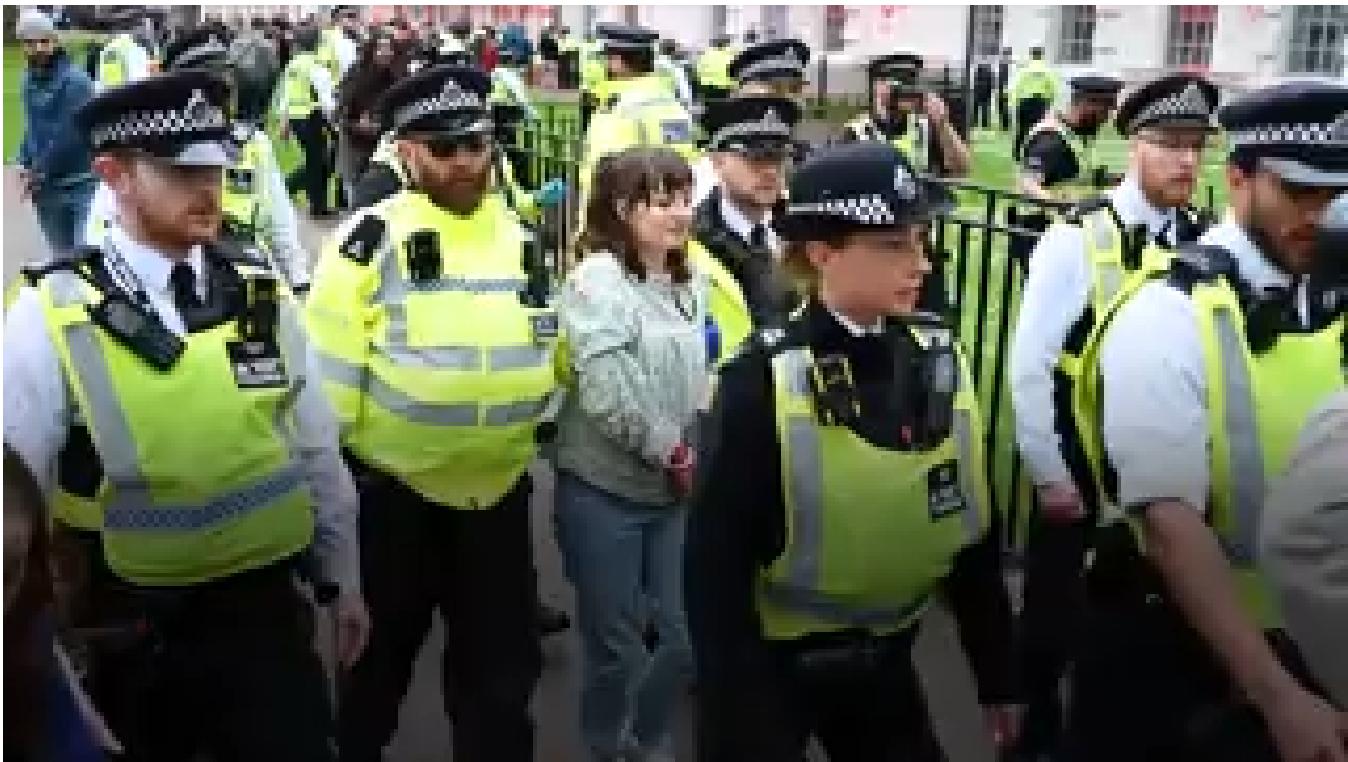
Protest group at centre of Quaker house arrests



Recently, Youth Demand gained media attention when Metropolitan Police officers raided a Quaker meeting house in Westminster, arresting six women attending a Youth Demand gathering. The raid was condemned by the Quaker community as an aggressive violation of their place of worship.

⌚ 5 APRIL 2025

Who are Youth Demand?



Youth Demand has vowed to “shut down” London by swarming the capital’s roads and holding demonstrations during a month-long period of action in April.

[Find out more about the group here.](#)

[**MORE ABOUT**](#) [**GAZA**](#) [**CLIMATE**](#) [**JUST STOP OIL**](#)

 HAVE YOUR SAY...

[VIEW 3 COMMENTS](#) 

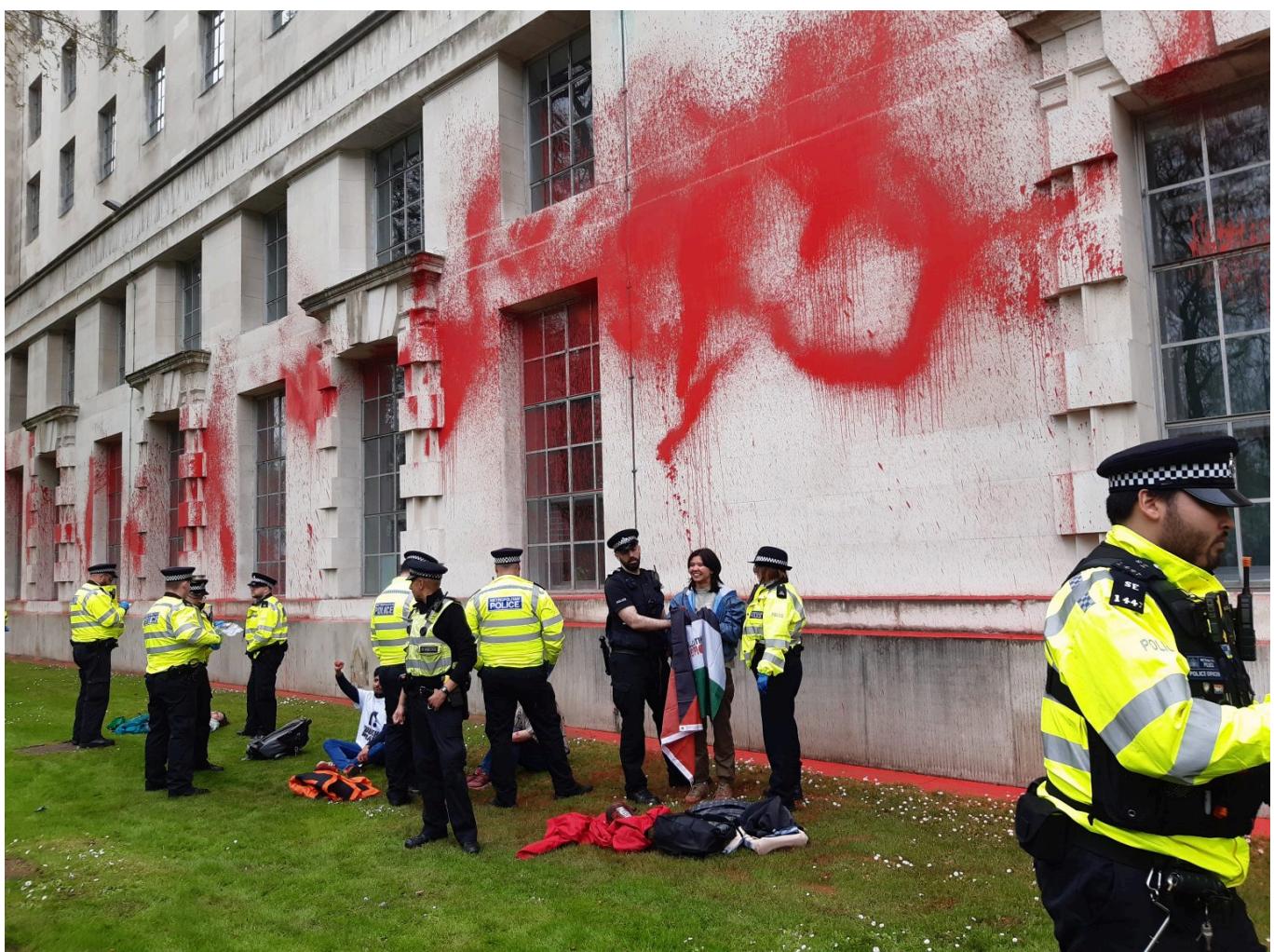
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RESISTING

HELP US GROW THE RESISTANCE

DONATE TO FUND RESISTANCE

TRAINING WEEKENDER JUNE 14/15TH





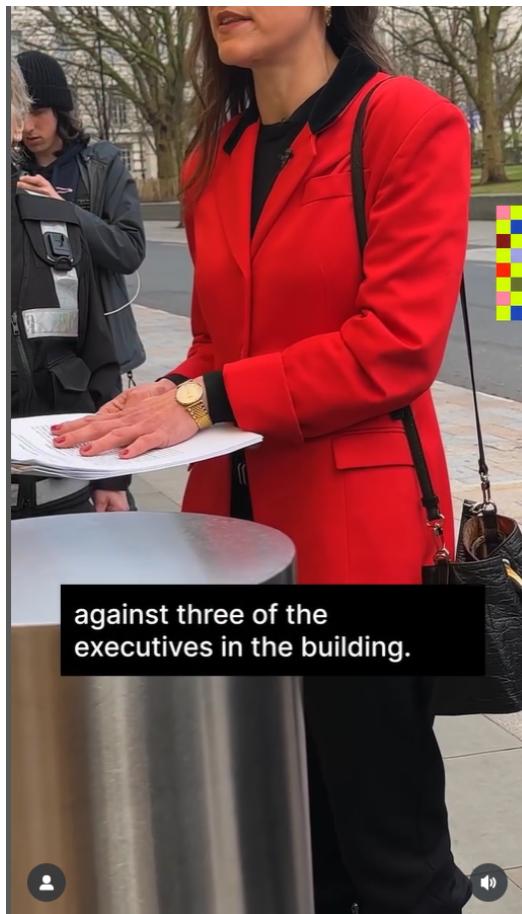
The government is engaging in absolute evil. They are enabling genocide in Palestine by sending money and arms to Israel. They are contributing to the murder of billions to keep the fossil fuel profits flowing.

Young people are stepping up to resist this nightmare. We are demanding that the government must:

- 1. Stop all trade with Israel: impose a total trade embargo on Israel.**
- 2. Make the rich pay: raise £1Tr by 2030 from the fossil fuel elite to pay damages to countries harmed by fossil fuel burning.**

Until these demands are met, we will be in nonviolent resistance against this rigged political system and the people with blood on their hands.

**CURIOS ABOUT RESISTANCE? COME TO AN
EVENT**



citizensarrestnet and climate.apocalypse

Original audio

...



citizensarrestnet SHELL'S CEO IS BREAKING THE LAW

We took evidence of Shell executives criminal activity to the Shell HQ and handed it to the police in march.

We won't let them get away with it. This wasn't a stunt. That's why we've taken this matter back to the police. E-mailing, phoning, and visiting police stations all summer asking why they won't arrest the people responsible for polluting the planet.

We have evidence these executives are breaking laws like public nuisance. With your help we can continue to pursue these mega polluting criminals. Find out more at our website.

This isn't over.

The people will hold polluters to account.

#CitizensArrestNetwork #Accountability #Justice #PeoplePower
#Shell #CEOs #OilBeBack

5 w



annahe roberts YES YES YES



...



Liked by ampism and others

12 September



Add a comment...

Post



citizensarrestnet • Follow

...



citizensarrestnet UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

In March 2025, Amjad ran away (yes, literally) from a citizen's arrest. Soon after, @ citizensarrestnet handed over indictment dossiers to the Met Office and Crown Prosecution Service. He is currently under investigation.

Amjad was responsible for 8 million tons of CO2e pollution in 2023 alone, that's 1.7 million times more CO2e than the average person. And he has lead Enquest to be one of the top 5 major polluters in the North Sea.

While the conservative party was determining whether to grant new licences in the North Sea for fossil fuel production they accepted payments of £400k from individuals and companies with interests in the oil and gas industry. £25,000 was from CEO Amjad Bseisu.

Read the evidence for yourself on our website.

Actions that intentionally or recklessly cause a public nuisance are indictable offences and carry a maximum of 10 years.

It's time the police follow up this investigation and take the UK's biggest criminal polluters to court.

Who do you think we should arrest next?

5 w



Liked by k_l_a_jordan and others

8 September



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...

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Original audio

citizensarrestnet Breaking: 3 of UK's biggest polluters citizen's arrested in 1 day.

3 women made 3 separate citizen's arrests to stop crimes of public nuisance by some of the UK's biggest polluters.

Chief Executive Officer of oil and gas company Harbour Energy, Linda Z Cook + EnQuest's Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Copus + Serica Energy's Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Stephen Lambert were placed under citizens arrest outside their offices on Monday.

These people pollute and expect the public to pay the price. It's time they took responsibility for their actions. Help us hold them to account.

#CitizensArrestNetwork #Accountability #Justice #PeoplePower
#CEO #CitizensArrest #Pollution #PublicNuisance #Criminal
#Corruption #Crime

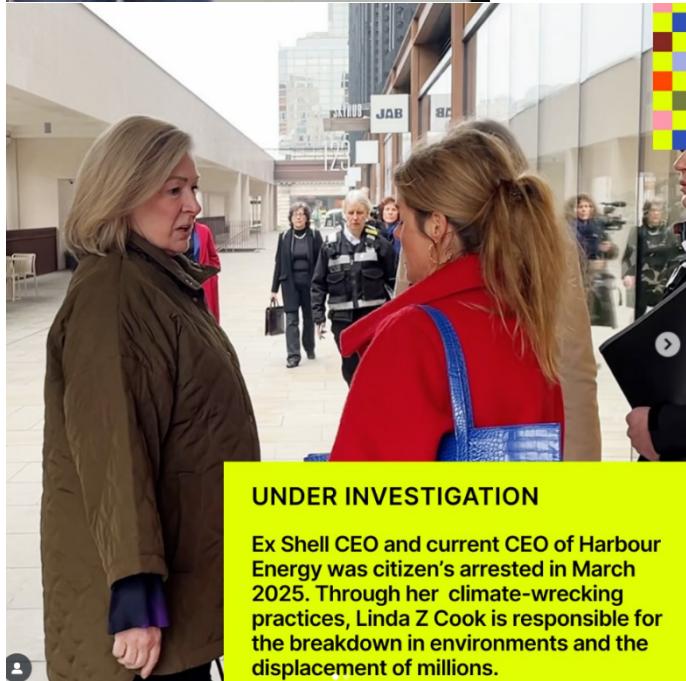
29 w

Liked by gallivanteur and others

25 March

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 **citizensarrestnet** • [Follow](#) 

citizensarrestnet Each oil barrel produces 500kg of CO2 emissions. Harbour Energy currently makes c. 475 thousand oil barrels a DAY. That's over 173 MILLION oil barrels a year. An incomprehensible amount of CO2 emissions.

As CEO, Linda continues to allow oil and gas production to go ahead under full knowledge and understanding of the high risk to the public and it's health. That is a criminal offence under UK law.

Yet, in 2024, Harbour Energy committed to increasing oil and gas exploration in the North Sea.

Forbes magazine named her the 44th most powerful woman in the world, surely someone as smart as she is can see the devastation that trails behind her?

Linda pollutes and expects the public to pay the price. It's time they took responsibility for their actions. That's why we citizens arrested her in March and took the indictment papers straight to the police and Crown Prosecution Service.

Head to our website to read more.

8 w

Liked by gallivanteur and others

21 August

 Add a comment... 



Environmental activism

⌚ This article is more than **6 months old**

What next for climate activism now Just Stop Oil is 'hanging up the hi-vis'?

After three years, thousands of arrests and a state crackdown on protests, the group is ending direct action after a polarising campaign

Matthew Taylor and Damien Gayle

Sat 5 Apr 2025 06.00 BST

On the morning of Valentine's Day 2022, Hannah Hunt stood at the gates of Downing Street to announce the start of a new kind of climate campaign, one that would eschew mere protest and instead move into "civil resistance".

Last week, three years and thousands of arrests later, in a neat tie-up exemplary of Just Stop Oil's (JSO) love of media-savvy stunts, [Hunt went to the same spot again](#) –

this time to announce the group would be “hanging up the hi-vis”.

In the history of UK climate activism, there has been perhaps no more polarising a campaign. Derided as “[eco-zealots](#)” in the [Daily Mail](#) and [condemned as “selfish” by the Sun](#), which even sent a reporter to testify against them in court, JSO is as likely to be remembered for the chaos it caused as for its victories.

The group’s tactics of blocking roads, halting sports events and targeting national treasures enraged politicians, pundits and the public alike. By 2023, polling showed 64% of people disapproved of JSO.



◀ Just Stop Oil activists interrupt Sigourney Weaver performance in *The Tempest* – video

Despite the demonisation, the impact of this relatively small group of peaceful protesters is in little doubt. Its campaigners kept the issue of new fossil fuel production on the agenda of even the least environmentally minded news outlets.

Indeed in the group’s parting statement, members claimed to have been “one of the most successful civil resistance campaigns in recent history”, saying that their key demand for a moratorium on new oil and gas licences was “now government policy”.

And perhaps more significantly, JSO proved there was a group of people in the UK prepared to endure public opprobrium – and often prison – to raise the alarm about a crisis that experts warn threatens the future of humanity. So why stop now?

For Graeme Hayes, a sociologist at Aston University, who has spent years covering Just Stop Oil, the end of the campaign came as no surprise. It followed the same pattern as its forerunners, [Extinction Rebellion](#) (XR) and Insulate Britain.

“It is in the DNA of these organisations that they do not carry on long term,” Hayes said. “Not least because the people involved, even in the best of worlds, tend to find that they exhaust their energies, that the constant wider social conflict they face is intense and takes its toll.”



JSO activists outside Harrods department store in Knightsbridge, London. Photograph: Ian West/PA

That wider social impact has been intensified by the introduction of some of the most draconian laws around the right to protest in UK history. In 2022, MPs passed the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act](#), a direct response to XR’s mass protests, giving police an armoury of new powers to impose conditions on demonstrations.

The following year, in a direct response to the likes of JSO, parliament passed the [Public Order Act](#), creating a series of offences targeting direct action, as the government simultaneously lowered the threshold of disruption at which police could intervene in a protest from “serious” to “more than minor”.

At the same time, courts are handing down increasingly harsh sentences, prosecutors have sought more severe conspiracy charges, and the government has taken action in the courts to narrow the scope of defences available to protesters.

Katy Watts, a lawyer at the human rights organisation Liberty, said: “That has all created this climate in which it is harder to engage in protest, particularly some of those specific direct action tactics. It’s harder to lawfully demonstrate on the streets, and the penalties or the consequences for committing protest offences have become more and more severe.”

The cost to activists has been substantial. According to JSO's data, over three years their supporters were arrested about 3,300 times. Seven are serving jail sentences, of up to four years, and a further eight are on remand awaiting sentencing. "We think there have been 180 instances of remand and/or prison sentences handed down," a JSO spokesperson said.



■ Roger Hallam says climate activists are facing the most repressive laws in modern UK history.
Photograph: Ollie Millington/Getty Images

More may yet be sent to jail. Trials for JSO actions are scheduled through 2025 and 2026 and, for those who took action with [Insulate Britain](#), into 2027.

Roger Hallam, the co-founder of XR, Insulate Britain and JSO, is one of those who has been at the sharp end of the state crackdown. He [was jailed for five years](#) for a conspiracy to [block traffic on the M25](#). His sentence was recently [reduced to four years on appeal](#) but he remains behind bars.

Reflecting on the end of JSO, Hallam told the Guardian that building the group had been "the most fulfilling period of my life, working in a culture of dedication to the common good, rooted in respect, service, and trust.

"While our impact may seem marginal and the crisis worsens, this is not due to a lack of effort - thousands have been arrested, hundreds imprisoned, facing the most repressive laws in modern UK history."

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Many within the movement believe they are at a similar inflection point to the one activists faced after the first wave of XR protests, when the radicals who went on to found Insulate Britain and JSO split from those who felt the need to moderate their actions.

Some groups, such as [Shut the System](#), have departed from the model of accountability espoused by JSO and XR in favour of a clandestine approach, inspired by counterparts in Europe and the writings of the [radical social ecologist Andreas Malm](#).



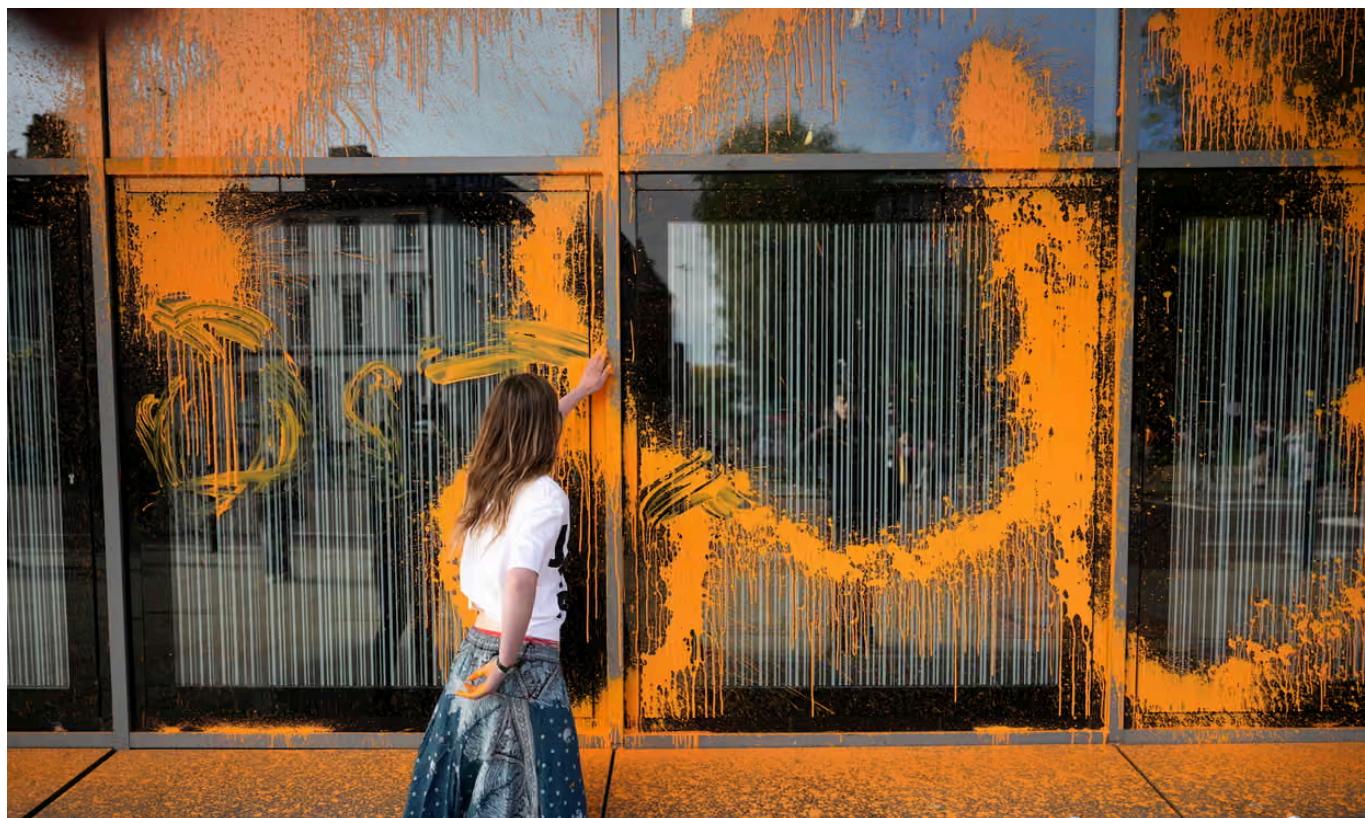
 The London offices of McKinsey and Co, a management consultancy firm, are sprayed with black liquid by Cut the Ties climate protesters. Photograph: Guy Bell/Rex/Shutterstock

Other groups have taken a different tack. [The Citizens Arrest Network](#), which has non-violently targeted the chief executives of polluting companies, aims to shift the legal accountability away from activists and to those it sees as responsible for the crisis.

“I think something like XR would be more difficult now,” said Nuala Lam, a longtime climate justice activist who was involved with XR and now helps run the Citizens Arrest Network. “The possibility of having a broad diverse movement where people from different backgrounds can get involved at different levels has been severely limited.”

While XR still exists, it no longer operates as a movement capable of mass disruptive protests of the kind that brought London to a standstill in 2019.

Several people involved in XR and JSO told the Guardian the challenge now was to mobilise the “climate-aware majority” - the large proportion of the population that is aware of the coming crisis, are deeply afraid about what it means for their own lives and that of their children, but are yet to take action.



■ A JSO protester smears orange paint over the Alan Gilbert building at the University of Manchester in a campaign against funding from fossil fuel firms. Photograph: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

Sam Nadel, the director of Social Change Lab, which researches the impact of protest, sees a continuing role for radical groups. He says groups such as JSO can have a “radical flank effect”, driving support for more moderate counterparts.

“In our 2024 Nature paper, we found that awareness of a [Just Stop Oil](#) protest made people more likely to support Friends of the Earth,” Nadel said. “People exposed to Just Stop Oil’s actions were also more likely to engage in pro-climate activities like volunteering, donating to charity, or contacting their MP. The message? Even unpopular groups can have positive and widespread ripple effects.”

Hallam acknowledges that despite the efforts and sacrifice of those involved in JSO the climate crisis is getting worse. However, he said the true failure lay not with

activists but with “the liberal class - journalists, doctors, lawyers, civil servants - who refused to stand by their professed values and engage in civil resistance.

“Now, the UK faces devastation, with the [Gulf Stream at risk of collapse](#) within decades and billions of lives in jeopardy. The political order will not survive what is coming ... Our elites have abandoned us. Only ordinary people can remake our world. And while we may have less, we will have spirit - and that is what truly matters.”

This article was amended on 16 April 2025. An earlier version implied that Extinction Rebellion had ceased to exist. In fact XR still exists, but its focus is no longer on being a movement capable of mass disruptive protests of the kind that brought London to a standstill in 2019.

Most viewed



Youth Demand ✅
@youth_demand

X.com

Seeds of Revolution: Training Programme
Saturday 14th + Sunday 15th June, 11am - 6pm
Waterloo Action Centre, London SE1 7AA
Register here: bit.ly/4IX51aS

This summer Youth Demand and Just Stop Oil are running a joint 6-week training course to build the generation of revolutionary organisers we need. It is being launched in London on the 14th + 15th of June!

There will be inspiring and practical sessions covering all the theory and practice for pulling off the nonviolent democratic revolution that is coming. We will be covering how to mass mobilise, how to run local groups and build momentum, the basics of planning actions and how to build an effective strategy. Guest speakers and trainers will be joining us!

There will be free food & accommodation provided. And if travel expenses would stop you from coming to the weekend, email youthdemand@proton.me and we can help!

This is the training programme that will inspire people across the UK to build the revolution we need. You do not want to miss this!!



FOSIL FREE LONDON

Our right to protest



Below are a series of videos, shared on our Instagram and other social media channels, to tell you all about your rights to protest.

Watch the videos below, attend a Green and Black Cross [training session](#), and sign up to Netpol's [mailing list](#), as well as reviewing the resources available from both [GBC](#) and [Netpol](#).

We need to get informed.

But most of all, we need to keep protesting.

See you on the streets!



fossilfreelondon and gbclegal
Original audio

[View profile](#)



[View more on Instagram](#)

18,574 likes
fossilfreelondon

▲ SHARE THIS MESSAGE ▲

The recent arrests of four of our activists at a peaceful protest yesterday has reminded us how important it is to know every single one of these rights.

Save this video and return to it before you go to any action. We are mobilising in an increasingly hostile environment and this information is so so important to have etched in your  brain.

Knowing these rights is a key part of solidarity in the movement - you protect yourself and each other. 

Is talking at a protest undermining your rights?  

In Episode six of our [#RightToRally](#) series, we break down 5 crucial ways to protect yourself from the police and new laws at protests. Here's what you need to know:

No Comment – You don't need to answer police questions.

No Personal Details – Don't give them under any stop and search power.

No Duty Solicitor – Opt for a solicitor with protest experience.

No Cautions – Avoid cautions; they're an admission of guilt.

What Power? – Ask officers which power they're relying on.

Tune in to learn more!  [#FossilFreeLondon](#) [#KnowYourRights](#) [#RightToRally](#)

There are some exceptions to these rules so if in doubt please contact the Green and Black Cross support line.

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- **Know your rights** (as above)
- **Protest is still legal!**
- **No comment!**
- **Phone security**
- **Staying safe at anti-fascist protests**
- **Undercover police spying**
- **The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act**
- **Are we all 'extremists'?!?**
- **What are conspiracy charges?**

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk [REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 10:23:06 AM
To: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk [REDACTED]@londoncityairport.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@londoncityairport.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk [REDACTED]@met.police.uk> [REDACTED]@met.police.uk
<[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Subject: RE: UKAIF: NPOCC SIB: Current Aviation Protest picture

[REDACTED]

Hope the below is useful. I know it is mentioned but the injunction at HAL had a real impact on the Shell protest yesterday and builds on your experiences. To remove an injunction now would open up to further protest and whilst JSO have stepped down there tends to be a cycle of new groups emerging and this can not be ruled out so maintaining it would be very much recommended.

Hope this helps.

Regards,

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Sent: 21 May 2025 07:56
To: [REDACTED]@londoncityairport.com>; [REDACTED]@londoncityairport.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk> [REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> [REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Subject: FW: UKAIF: NPOCC SIB: Current Aviation Protest picture

Moring [REDACTED]

Please see the below update from our partners at NPOCC (National Police Coordination Centre) regarding the current aviation protest picture. This is shareable with yourselves and may be of assistance with further extension of injunctions.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]@sussex.police.uk>
Sent: 21 May 2025 07:36
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk>

[REDACTED]@humbershire.police.uk; [REDACTED]@leics.police.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@avonandsomerset.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@merseyside.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@northwales.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> [REDACTED]@westyorkshire.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@sussex.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@gmp.police.uk>;
[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@lancashire.police.uk; [REDACTED]@essex.police.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@northumbria.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@dorset.pnn.police.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@psni.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@dorset.pnn.police.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]@south-
wales.police.uk; [REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@norfolk.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@essex.police.uk; [REDACTED]@cambs.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk; [REDACTED]@beds.police.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@westmidlands.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@durham.police.uk;
[REDACTED]@scotland.police.uk; [REDACTED]@hampshire.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED]@thamesvalley.police.uk

Subject: UKAIF: NPOCC SIB: Current Aviation Protest picture

Good Morning colleagues,

I am grateful to John Foreman at NPOCC SIB for the below sitrep in relation to JSO and the wider protest piece in relation to UK Aviation. This may be useful if approached by your operator in consideration of their decision whether or not to apply for a further extension on High Court Injunctions obtained last year. It is fair to say that we are not in the same place we were then, and whilst I have my own view on the necessity of a further injuncted period, it would be inappropriate for me to express this opinion and for that to be a local, operator led decision.

The following would be the current assessment of NPOCC SIB regarding the Anti-Aviation environmental sub-thematic:

[START TEXT]

The overall situation with environmental protest regarding anti-aviation / airport expansion is that within the UK the position has returned to dormant.

With the outcome of the main Operation ZIZEL prosecutions resulting in convictions and custodial sentences, this appears to be having a deterrent effect on the resolve of UK environmental protesters to engage in further targeting of aviation industry interests. Whilst European environmental protest groups – such as those associated with the A22 Network – remain active within the anti-aviation protest space abroad, they have openly noted the significant impact of the UK criminal justice system on UK environmentalism and will thus be similarly deterred from engaging in any direct action within the UK, for fear of attracting such penalties themselves.

Additionally, with the demise of *Just Stop Oil* (JSO), this also leaves the UK without a leading environmental direct action protest group at this time. Those UK environmental protest groups that remain active, are predominantly engaging only in lawful protest activity. By way of relevant example, those environmental protest groups who desired to oppose the Shell AGM on 20/05/2025, conscious of the Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) High Court Injunction still in effect, were forced to hold their protest at the Shell head office in central London rather than the AGM location at a hotel within the Heathrow Airport injuncted area, in order to avoid the risk of associated penalties for breaching of the injunction.

Youth Demand (YD) are filling some of the void left by JSO, particularly in terms of recent targeting of cultural / sporting events, but are almost entirely focused on pro-Palestinian issues. Hence if YD were to target aviation interests, it would have to significantly serve their primary purpose of opposing Israel's conflict with the Palestinians.

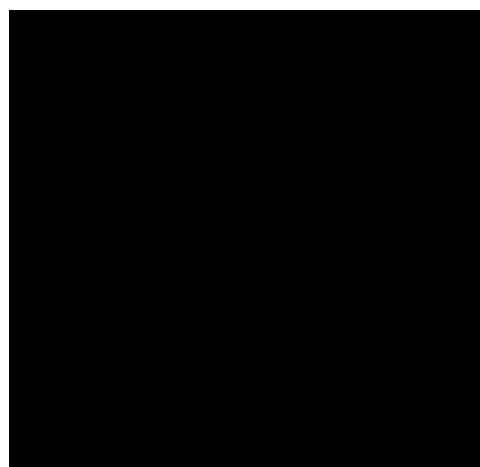
Whilst YD protesters are experienced, capable and motivated to carry out high-profile direct action utilising very small numbers of protesters, there appears to only be a small cohort of YD willing to risk prosecutions arising from such activity. Overall, despite their online rhetoric, YD does not appear to be effective in growing their protest group numbers beyond a fluctuating core membership of circa 50 persons.

With UK Government approval for proposed expansion of Gatwick, Heathrow and Luton airports, there has been vocal opposition from environmentalist, but mainly those existing local / regional campaign groups, who will not engage in protest criminality. Believed interest in opposing airport expansion by the regenerated environmental direct action protest group *Reclaim The Power* (RTP), needs to be tempered against the fact that the group in its newest incarnation of primarily higher-education aged persons based in the North East area of England, have yet to engage in any protest of significance. 15 RTP protesters remain on bail pending trial in September 2025 for POA 2023 offences in connection with their attempt to stage a protest camp in opposition to Drax power station during 2024. Further to this, the RTP group continue to display general naivety around engaging in protest associated criminality, with circa 13 RTP protesters currently sought or identified and arrested in connection with the investigation into a recent burglary of an office building linked to the biofuel industry, further impacting the group's capability and credibility to function as an effective direct action protest group. Overall, significant physical protest opposition to any expansion of the three airports will be assuaged until such time that any legal challenges have been exhausted and there is on-going work available to be physically obstructed.

Sporadic protest in opposition to private jet hubs continues at a couple of sites in the South East region, but fails to reach a level of activity that requires any significant police intervention at this time.

[END TEXT]

I hope this assists, as all of the above is shareable with non-police stakeholders. But please do come back to me if you need anything further.



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<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

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www.sussex.police.uk

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