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Direct line **Direct fax**
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Your ref: **Our ref:**

11 December 2009

Mr Michael McCarthy

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Mr McCarthy

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REF: COL/09/197

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22 April 2009 in which you seek access to the following information:

- 1. I would like to know who gave the order to send in squads of police to break up the entirely peaceable climate camp in Bishopsgate on 1st April 2009. If releasing such information is embargoed, I would alternatively like to know at what level within the police service, the Home Office or any other official body the order was given.*
- 2. I would also like to see any documents which bear on the issue of why the climate camp was not left undisturbed for a day or two, with buses and other traffic diverted through surrounding streets, just as various forms of disruption to the normal movements of traffic and local residents were considered to be perfectly acceptable in the vicinity of the Excel Centre where the G20 meetings took place.*

Gold and Silver command of events that took place in the City of London on 1 April 2009 was by Metropolitan Police officers and the following information has been provided by the Metropolitan Police Authority.

At a meeting prior to the 1st April 2009 between the Climate Camp and police representatives, the police command team made it clear that any camp unlawfully blocking the highway would be removed.

At about 7pm, cordons were put in place around the Climate Camp demonstration to prevent disorderly protestors from the Bank of England joining this protest. However, during this time, Climate Camp protestors were allowed to leave the cordoned area if they wished. Violent protestors did approach the outside of the cordons and were moved away.

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With the Bank of England protest cleared by 9pm, the Silver Commander directed that the Climate Camp, which was unlawfully blocking the road, should be removed and the Bronze Commander was able to move more resources to deal with the Climate Camp. The protestors were requested to move under Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986 as they were blocking the main A10, Bishopsgate, thus causing serious disruption to the life of the community. At about 10.45pm, PSU's started slowly and methodically to remove the demonstrators to allow the roads to be opened. Reasonable force had to be used in the early stages as protestors resisted and consequently a number of arrests were made. This prompted many to pack up and leave of their own accord. The Bronze Commander allowed ample time for this to happen, regularly stopping the advance so as to avoid confrontation. By 2am the road had been returned to the City of London Corporation so they could begin the extensive task of clearing the debris left by the protestors.

Further information is published by the Metropolitan Police Authority and may be viewed via the following link:

[MPA: Committees: MPA reports - 30-Apr-09 \(06a\)](#)

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to your request. Should you have any further questions, please contact me via e-mail, letter or telephone, quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

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