

From: HOCKIN Richard 14859
Sent: 08 December 2004 09:58
To: WEBSTER Mark 14369
Cc: TUCKER John 12246; MARSHALL Ian 13943; FOX Emma 15543
Subject: Darkie Day
Sir,

On Monday I was contacted by PC Sarah Burt from Wadebridge who informed me that she had been approached by people from Padstow who stated that they are aware that the Channel 4 company plan to film in Padstow on Darkie day and the people had asked if they are not allowed to 'blacken' their faces can they use another method to 'tan' up their faces!
The point is obviously being missed. I explained to Sarah that the best way forward for the event is moving away from the slavery links and making it more like a St Stephens feast day. PC Burt informed me that the people involved would be very unlikely to listen to this as an option and it sounds like they are prepared to dig their heels in. If that is the case I have no sympathy for them. CREC has made every effort, I believe, to help these people and to educate and motivate them into doing something else so that they do not get into trouble. If, at the end of the day, they are prepared to 'run the gauntlet' they will get into trouble.
I would recommend that you have sufficient staffing to cover both Boxing Day and New Years Day and that OEG is a must for both days.
If the traditional parade does go ahead and your staff find themselves facing say upwards of 5 people that are causing offence, of course it may not be a good idea to arrest them there and then as a large scale disorder may take place. It would be my recommendation that the event is allowed to run its course but that all available evidence via OEG and witnesses is gathered and then a slow time positive prosecution investigation be carried out during January.
Of course it is not my place to say how operational decisions should be made on the day, but this is just my advice to help avoid disorder.

Hope this helps. Is there an operational order as yet? When it is available may I have a look.

Thanks
Richard