

Claim No : 8624/2005

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

B E T W E E N :

The Queen on the application of

ANDREW WOOD

Claimant

-v-

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR THE METROPOLIS

Defendant

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW WOOD

I am the claimant, Andrew Wood, of

. Having read the written evidence filed and served by the defendants, I now make the following supplementary statement in support of my claim:

1. As explained in my first witness statement, on 27 April 2005 I attended the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of Reed Elsevier plc (“Reed”) at the Millennium Hotel in Grosvenor Square, London W1. I attended as part of my role at Campaign Against Arms Trade (“CAAT”).

The Rising Tide demonstration

2. The witness statements of Chief Inspector Claire Weaver, Police Sergeant David Dixon and Police Constable Alan Palfrey all refer to Metropolitan Police concerns about protest at the Reed AGM, but also to concern about a second demonstration by a group called Rising Tide that was taking place in St James's Square. Rising Tide is a loose network of environmental campaigning groups, working to build a movement against climate change. While it might be possible that some members of CAAT also support Rising Tide, there is no link between the issues upon which these two organisations campaign and there is certainly no link between the groups themselves; for example, an alliance of some sort.

3. I was not aware that a second demonstration had occurred on 27 April 2005 until it was brought to my attention by the witness statements mentioned above. On reading these statements I did a little research into the Rising Tide demonstration, including reading an account of what went on that I found on the 'Indymedia UK' website. Indymedia describes itself as "[a] network of individuals, independent and alternative media activists and organisations, offering grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues." I have attached a copy of the account of the Rising Tide demonstration from this website as '**Exhibit AW1**'.

4. As far as I am now aware the Rising Tide demonstration began early on 26 April 2005 (the day before the Reed AGM) when about half a dozen individuals arrived outside the headquarters of BP in St James' Square. These individuals then climbed some trees in the park in the middle of St James's Square and hung a banner that read "BP Fuels Climate Chaos". The account exhibited to this statement includes photos showing this climb. While the banner was being hung, anti-BP slogans were shouted by demonstrators in the trees while one or two more

distributed leaflets in the square. This appears to have been the full extent of the demonstration on 26 April.

5. I understand that the majority of the small group of demonstrators went home at the end of the Tuesday night. Just two of the demonstrators remained in the trees with the banner overnight and one stayed for two further nights. The demonstration ended on Friday 29 April 2005. I don't think there was any trouble over the four days.
6. Even ignoring the fact that the two demonstrations were about unrelated issues, I do not understand why the police state that they were worried about those of us attending the Reed AGM joining up with the Rising Tide demo when the latter was made up of a very small number of people who were causing no disruption. The police would have been aware of the small scale and peaceful nature of the Rising Tide demonstration in advance of the Reed AGM, since it had begun the day before. Obviously there were also only a small number of demonstrators in Grosvenor Square on the 27th.

Security at the AGM

7. The witness statement of Police Sergeant David Dixon states that photographs were taken of Ian Prichard and me as we left the AGM because of fears that offences may have been committed whilst we were inside that would only subsequently come to light. This seems a strange fear to me, as there was a lot of security in place at the Reed AGM besides the police outside.
8. When I entered the Millennium Hotel, I was first stopped at a reception table. At the table was an official who asked me to empty my pockets. There were several well-built men present who I believe were security guards. They wore matching blazers and had earpieces in, presumably for communication.

9. I emptied my pockets and the contents were checked by a security official. They confiscated the small whistle I keep on my key-ring as a safety device. I remember being given a ticket which I could use to collect it after the meeting had ended. I believe there may have been other security checks but I can't say for sure.

10. After this first round of security, I then had to go to another table in the reception area. There I was asked by another person (presumably an employee of Reed) for the papers sent out by Reed to all shareholders. I presume that this was to verify that I was a genuine shareholder who was eligible to attend the meeting.

11. Once my shareholder papers had been verified, I went to the cloak room and deposited my bag. I continued to the room where the AGM was held. The room was large, dimly lit and apparently without windows. There was a large number of seats, of which very few were occupied. They were arranged as three sets of chairs facing the front of the room, with two aisles dividing them. Around the room were several more of the well-built security guards with matching blazers and earpieces. They closely scrutinised the attendees.

12. The only time the security guards were called into action was mid-way through the AGM when two women began singing or chanting. I could see them across the room from my seat in the farthest set of chairs. I can't remember exactly how many security guards stepped in to deal with them, but since the two grown women were both physically picked up and literally carried out of the room it must have been several. No one else in the room protested or stepped in during the removal of the women. We all simply looked on.

13. I have no doubt that if I had tried to do anything disruptive I would have been dealt with by the security presence in the same way. However, that was not my intention.

Photography outside the AGM

14. I left the AGM immediately after it finished, picking up my coat, bag and pocket whistle; and not waiting for the drinks reception. Ian Prichard joined me as I was leaving, and we exited the Millennium Hotel together. Just outside the hotel was KB, who had been leafleting with the permission of the police.

15. KB can be seen on the left in the first photograph exhibited to the witness statement of Neal Williams (page 1 of NW/1). Despite the police photographer Neal Williams stating at paragraph 7 of his statement that he “was firstly asked to take a picture of the men through the window of our vehicle...as they left the AGM and approached Oxford Street”, I believe this photograph shows KB, Ian Prichard and me immediately outside the entrance to the Millennium Hotel in Grosvenor Square.

16. After the moment captured in this photograph, Ian and I crossed over the road to the pavement round the park in the interior of Grosvenor Square. I believe KB followed us. It was there that I saw the police photographer, who I now understand to have been Neal Williams, approach us and take photographs. None of these photographs appear in exhibit NW/1. Apart from the photograph of KB, Ian and me immediately outside the hotel, all of the photographs in exhibit NW/1 appear to have been taken on Duke Street, which connects Grosvenor Square to Oxford Street, or possibly Oxford Street itself.

17. I have no recollection of anyone else joining Ian, Kathryn and I in Grosvenor Square. I don't remember 'EA' being with us at all. I certainly would remember if anyone else had joined the conversation. Ian and I then left the Square to walk to the tube station in Oxford Street.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:.....

ANDREW WOOD

Dated this day of February 2007