

Appendices

for

Political Protest and the Police: Young People in Brighton

***A report on student demonstrations in Brighton,
24th and 30th November 2010***

Tom Akehurst, Louise Purbrick, Lucy Robinson

Appendix 1

Chief Constable of Sussex Police
Martin Richards
Sussex Police Headquarters
Malling House
Church Lane
Lewes
BN7 2DZ

8th December 2010

Young people, political demonstrations and the police: social responsibility and research

Dear Martin Richards, Chief Constable of Sussex Police,

We write to you as researchers based at Universities of Brighton and Sussex and as members of the University College Union (UCU) who supported the student demonstrations in Brighton on 24th and 30th November 2010. Both demonstrations were organised by college students and many of the participants were school-age children.

UCU members attended both student demonstrations not only to publicly confirm our commitment to equality of access to higher education but also because we have welcomed young people's interest in their education and their desire to make their own voices heard within one of the most important political debates for many years with profound implications for their futures as well as that of the public sector as a whole.

We have grave concerns about the policing of both demonstrations that extend from operational decisions and tactics, such as the deployment of riot police and dog units, to the conduct of police officers, individually and generally, which caused fear and confusion among young members of our community.

On both demonstrations, there were relatively few adult participants. As members of one of the only adult organisations present, we feel we have a responsibility to make public our observations, concerns and criticisms of police conduct and as a matter of open debate. We recognise that school age children as well as college students, often feel too intimidated and disenfranchised to speak out for themselves. Furthermore, using our expertise as researchers in the university sector, which includes data collection, interpretation of testimony, ethics of researching human subjects, including the young, and the analysis of policy and practice of public bodies, such as the police, we are seeking to build up a complete picture of university, college and school students' experience of policing in Brighton on 24th and 30th November.

The following issues have already arisen from our initial collation of observations:

- the intention and effects of 'kettling', including its potential to isolate and intimidate participants in demonstrations, encourage confrontations that lead to arrests and whether the use of 'kettling' over extended periods constitutes a form of detention or de facto arrest
- the lack, or otherwise, of clear information provided to young people about why they were being detained in 'kettles' or why they were singled out for arrest
- the effect of the decision to deploy riot police, dog units and road blocks
- the ways in which physical size and strength of police officers, body armour and weapons may have been used against child demonstrators
- the extent to which police used forms of violence against young people
- whether the filming of children combined with demands for personal details whilst on the demonstration constituted an interview situation for which an appropriate adult should have been present
- the ethics of surveillance of political demonstrations involving children
- whether provisions relating to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were used inappropriately, or otherwise, at public demonstrations of short term duration

We will, of course, inform you and any other relevant bodies, such as Brighton's Children's Service, local political representatives and community media organisations of any report or publication that results from our research and are considering whether using the Sussex Police complaints procedure or that of the Independent Police Complaints Commission is necessary at this or another stage of our research.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tom Akehurst
 Professor Bob Brecher, Director of the Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics and Ethics
 Dr Dimitris Dalakoglou
 Dr Graham Dawson
 Dr Daniel Kane
 Dr Vicky Margree
 Dr Eugene Michail
 Dr Lucy Noakes
 Chris O'Kane
 Dr Filippo Osella, Reader in Anthropology
 Dr Louise Purbrick
 Dr Lucy Robinson
 Dr Anita Rupprecht
 Leo Santos-Shaw

Appendix 2

Student demonstrations in Brighton: Wednesday 24th and Tuesday 30th November

What happened to you?

Members of the university lecturers' union, the University College Union (UCU) have supported students' protests against raising university fees. Some of you may have seen our pink banner on your demonstrations. We are concerned that young people were not treated appropriately, especially by the police, and would like to use our skills as researchers based at the Universities of Brighton and Sussex to build up an accurate picture of young people's experiences on Wednesday 24th and Tuesday 30th November.

If you attended either demonstration, or both, we would like to invite you write down anything you think is important about your day. Just use your own words to express what happened to you on Wednesday 24th or Tuesday 30th: what you saw, what you heard, how you felt. If you can remember times and places, that is helpful but not essential.

We do not need know your names. We realise that students on the 24th and 30th November were filmed by the police or asked to give their names but did not wish to be recorded in this way. We would never publish or pass on names of children or adults without consent under any circumstances. It is simply not ethical to do so. Your age and whether you attend school, college or university will be useful for us as we try to understand the experience of different groups of students but that is all we need.

Please send your writing to Louise or Lucy at the addresses below.

Louise Purbrick
l.purbrick@bton.ac.uk

Lucy Robinson
l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk

Appendix 3

Student demonstrations in Brighton: Wednesday 24th and Tuesday 30th November

Adult witnesses

Members of the university lecturers' union, the University College Union (UCU) have supported students' protests against raising university fees. Many of us have very serious concerns about the policing of both demonstrations that extend from operational decisions and tactics, such as the deployment of riot police and dog units, to the conduct of police officers, individually and generally, which caused fear and confusion among young members of our community.

We are seeking to use our skills as researchers based at the Universities of Brighton and Sussex to build up an accurate picture of young people's experiences on Wednesday 24th and Tuesday 30th November and are collecting accounts of student participants. It would also be very helpful to create a record of what was witnessed by adults present on the demonstrations.

If you attended either demonstration, or both, we would like to invite you to write down anything you think is important about your day. Please just use your own words to describe what you saw or heard on Wednesday 24th or Tuesday 30th: if you can remember times and places or can estimate numbers of students or police that will be helpful as are recollections of reactions of young people and your observations of the effect of policing strategies upon them.

As should be expected, this research will be conducted according to ethical practice. If you are happy to record your observations, they will only be published with your written consent and with all names anonymised.

Please send your writing to Louise or Lucy at the addresses below.

Louise Purbrick
l.purbrick@bton.ac.uk

Lucy Robinson
l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk

Appendix 4



Martin Richards QPM
Chief Constable

Ddi: 01273 404001
Fax: 01273 404263

e-mail: martin.richards@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Our Ref: CC/MBR/ajs

20 December 2010

Dr Paddy Maguire
Head of School of Humanities
University of Brighton
10-11 Pavilion Parade
Brighton N2 1RA

Dear Dr Maguire

Young people, political demonstrations and the police: social responsibility and research

Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2010 raising your concerns about the recent political demonstrations in Brighton & Hove.

Sussex Police, as a principle, always support and facilitate people's right to protest peacefully, and it is always our intention to ensure safety for participants and the wider public. This has been demonstrated many times over the last year and I believe we are becoming increasingly experienced at policing that difficult line between justified protest and unacceptable behaviour. I am pleased that members of the University and Colleges Union were able to attend the demonstrations on 24 and 30 November and am very grateful for your observations.

I believe the specific points you raise regarding policing tactics are more complex than should be dealt with adequately within this letter.

I would always encourage you to contact Chief Superintendent Bartlett with further details should you feel that there have been individual incidents of misconduct by officers. He is your local Divisional Commander and was also the Gold Commander for the protests. I am aware that he has nominated an independent senior officer to oversee any complaints arising from these protests and can assure you that any such complaints will be investigated.

I would very much like the opportunity to develop our joint understanding around your views on our policing style and strategic direction of the policing. I believe it is essential to examine the perception and impact policing has on protestors so that both yourselves and we can draw some learning for the future. I agree with you that young people often struggle to be heard across a democracy and we do try hard to understand their views. I would welcome the opportunity to support your research to establish a 'complete picture of university, college

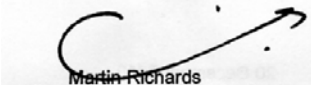
Police Headquarters Malling House Church Lane Lewes East Sussex BN7 2DZ.

Telephone 0845 60 70 999 Fax (01273) 404263

Website: <http://www.sussex.police.uk> e-mail: chief.constable@sussex.police.uk

and School Students experience of policing' on those dates. I am sure that your research will want to establish the complete picture, therefore, I am offering you access to those involved in the Command and direction of the policing of those protests, from whom you will no doubt gain more context and understanding of the policing challenges during those events.

I look forward to hearing from you and will ask Chief Superintendent Bartlett to make himself available should you wish.


Martin Richards
Chief Constable

Appendix 5

--On 26 January 2011 18:19 +0000 L.Purbrick@brighton.ac.uk wrote:

> Dear Peter and Lucy

>

> Just got a few bits and bobs that I wanted to raise. Good luck with your
> meeting with the police, Peter. I'm sure it is proper to listen and be
> flexible and so on but I wanted just to confirm how we've described our
> project so far to participants and the police. We have said we are
> compiling an account of the student experience (out of a sense of
> responsibility as adults on a student protest) in both the letter to the
> police and invites to both adults and students (adults have not really
> focussed on themselves but on what happened to children). We've also
> promised to place our findings in the public domain for all, including
> the police. I've copied the relevant sections of our letter just for
> reference. My experience of this type of community research is we have to
> do what we say (I think we could have something ready in weeks, maybe
> three or four from now with proofing and image reproduction, I'm working
> on how to print youtube footage, which I think will be very interesting).
> This means that we can't incorporate police as eyewitnesses, say, at this
> point. The school children who have written would not expect their words
> to be 'tested' against those of police officers, for example. Once we
> have reported the research can develop in any number of ways, of course,
> and researching the police is an obvious development.

>

> I am probably being over-cautious (most of my community research is based
> in Northern Ireland) but it is possible that the police are seeking to
> influence a research project before it has disseminated its results. I
> know you have much more experience of police and research than me, Peter,
> so forgive my intervention if it is all too obvious to you.

>

> I met with University of Sussex lecturer, Tom Akehurst, yesterday (he was
> at the meeting but had contacted Lucy previously). He is going to pull
> together the current work on kettling. My feeling about the national
> debate so far is no-one is aware of just how many children were kettled
> in Brighton and that all reported effects of kettling (feelings of
> frustration, anxiety, anger) are amplified when those contained are
> children with little experience of public protest, understanding of
> political rights and are only just developing social skills, such as
> patience, to deal with confrontations. I hope Tom's involvement is
> acceptable to you both.

>

> And ASBOs: I looked at the 'original' 1998 Act and was struck by the

> number of mentions of "premises" and I do recall the debate about ASBOs
> being a matter of neighbourhood policing and defended as a means of
> creating safe places to live. I wondered if it might be worth looking
> back at Hansard for the context in which the legislation was passed in
> 1998 and amended in 2002. I would suggest that the police have used the
> legislation for their own ends, expediently, rather than appropriately.
> The letter of the law is being broadly rather than specifically
> interpreted. This is one for you, Peter. What do you think?

>

> Louise

>

> Excerpts from our letter:

>

> On both demonstrations, there were relatively few adult participants. As
> members of one of the only adult organisations present, we feel we have a
> responsibility to make public our observations, concerns and criticisms
> of police conduct and as a matter of open debate. We recognise that
> school age children as well as college students, often feel too intimidated
> and disenfranchised to speak out for themselves. Furthermore, using our
> expertise as researchers in the university sector, which includes data
> collection, interpretation of testimony, ethics of researching human
> subjects, including the young, and the analysis of policy and practice of
> public bodies, such as the police, we are seeking to build up a complete
> picture of university, college and school students' experience of
> policing in Brighton on 24th and 30th November.

>

> ...

>

> We will, of course, inform you and any other relevant bodies, such as
> Brighton's Children's Service, local political representatives and
> community media organisations of any report or publication that results
> from our research and are considering whether using the Sussex Police
> complaints procedure or that of the Independent Police Complaints
> Commission is necessary at this or another stage of our research

>