

Re. Police witness statements:

My defence solicitor, Clare Ryan, said 'the evidence of Breach of the Peace against you comes from the evidence of the Police witnesses who state that you called them animals, were abusive towards them and shouted "you fucking lot take your helmets off. You fascist arseholes." Also, that you made threats to defecate and urinate on them and encouraged others to follow suit.'

First, some pertinent questions to put to these policemen -

- At what precise time did I make these alleged remarks?
- Did I make them all at once or spread out over a period of time? If the latter, at what precise times were the different remarks made, in what order?
- Did they note down my remarks verbatim on paper at the time they were allegedly made, or later (when?) Let's see their notes.
- There were lots of other people saying different things to the police. Can they be sure it was me?
- The video evidence does NOT show me making those remarks.
- Were these alleged remarks made only to the 2 police witnesses or to more police (which ones, where?)
- At what end of Canning Street were these 2 policemen standing when I was alleged to have made these remarks?

Now, concerning the allegations in detail, these are MY responses -

'animals'

I think it is relevant that I have been vegetarian for nearly 40 years, as I love & respect animals. Therefore I do not use the term 'animals' in a derogatory way or as a term of abuse. It's simply not my style to speak like that. I respectfully suggest that it reveals the mentality of the person who made the allegation. Could it not be that they are mistaken in their recollection?

The irony here is that the police PENNED IN the people in the procession as if we were animals! They treated us like animals!!!

So their accusation is an INVERSION OF THE TRUTH...

The trouble with the police is that they are 'all too HUMAN!' 'Adult male of a merciless species' to quote the Northumbrian poet Basil Bunting.

In some ways, like Walt Whitman, I prefer animals ('I think I could turn & live with animals')

So, the police have made a false accusation. I call on them to withdraw it.

'were abusive towards them'

How specifically & precisely was I abusive to them? What words did I use? By 'them' do the 2 witnesses mean only themselves or to other policemen as well?

"you fucking lot take your helmets off. You fascist arseholes."

In the video, an unknown person who picked a public argument with me repeatedly used the F-word at me. I did not respond in kind. I walked away. I don't use the F-word in public. The strongest swear word I used was 'bloody' (& that's in the video), so mild as to be inoffensive. Moreover, importantly, I didn't even use that in an abusive way. I merely referred to 'bloody helicopters burning carbon'. That is NOT personal abusive.

A***holes is a vulgar Americanism. I simply don't use the term. Resort to it suggests a lack of vocabulary. I have a degree in English. I am a nationally published & broadcast writer. I don't use such language. It's not my style.

Who wrote the script for these policeman? Judging by the language used, it must have been someone with a fondness for Hollywood movies.

Is it likely that a 5' 6" person like me would abuse serried ranks of riot

police in this way? It would be suicidal. I am not that stupid.

Why would I ask them to take their helmets off? Was I trying to pick a physical fight with them? Again, unlikely.

'threats to defecate and urinate on them and encouraged others to follow suit.'

Quite simply, I didn't.

For a start, I had adequate potty training.

At one point I quietly & politely asked a police officer to be let out of the pen, as I needed to go to the toilet. He refused my request, but told me that I could go in the office building. This proved to be false. The office doors were locked & I was refused entry. It was wrong of the police to mislead me.

After that, I had to hold it in. Following my arrest, I asked to be allowed to urinate as by that time my need was urgent. Repeated requests, I was told to urinate in an empty water bottle. This proved impossible with handcuffs on. When I pointed this out, my handcuffs were temporarily removed & I was instructed to urinate in the gutter. I did not defecate until hours later in the police cells at Livingston. No toilet paper was provided.

I was NOT the young person who climbed onto the roof of the office building & mimed pulling down his trousers to defecate etc. Indeed I took a photo of him. Besides I'm afraid of heights.

So, as I was standing at street-level, how would it be physically possible for me to defecate ON a 6 foot plus policeman also standing? An absurd suggestion. It says more about the scatological imagination of whoever made the accusation.

The 'encouraged others to follow suit' part is omitted from the official charges. As I didn't do the first part, I couldn't have done the second.

Can you really picture the scene - me rallying the 'troops' with a

'Come on chaps, let's defecate & urinate on these police officers here.' Stretches credulity somewhat.

There is no evidence for this accusation, beyond their malicious & frankly disgusting allegations.

In sum, I strongly deny all of these accusations.

To put it diplomatically, could the 2 police witnesses not be mistaken in their recollection?

To put it more cogently, I think it's disgraceful that paid public servants are prepared to commit perjury in a court of law.

David King