

RIGHT TO PROTEST LTD

Sir Mark Rowley, Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment,
London,
SW1A 2JL

Matt Twist, Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service

Ade Adelekan MVO, Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service

By email only: mark.rowley@met.police.uk
Matthew.Twist@met.police.uk
ade.adelekan@met.police.uk

30th October 2025

Dear Commissioner,

Subject: Request for Confirmation – MPS Position on display of material supporting proscribed organisations from private premises and dissemination of material supporting proscribed organisations to be displayed from private premises

We write to you with our concerns regarding the Defend our Juries' 'Lift the Ban' window poster campaign.

We first wrote to you regarding on 26 September 2025. The chronology of correspondence is set out for you as follows:

I. Chronology of correspondence and unequal treatment

- **26 September 2025 – Right to Protest Ltd letter to Assistant Commissioner, Matt Twist**

We raised concerns about the Defend Our Juries 'window poster campaign,' which urged the public to display posters stating "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action" from their homes. We requested clarity regarding MPS's action in relation to this campaign.

- **6 October 2025 – PC James Armstrong, Directorate of Professional Standards reply to Right to Protest Ltd**

In response to our letter, we received an email from PC James Armstrong who wrote:

"I have shared your submission to the counter terrorism command informing them of your complaint and the issues raised. If a response is possible I have asked that they provide one."

Despite this, we received no further correspondence from the MPS or CTS regarding our queries.

- **9 October 2025 – LBC Report: “Displaying Palestine Action posters in windows not illegal, Met Police says”¹**

On 9 October, LBC published the above article in regards to a poster placed in the window of a property in Peckham, south-east London, which stated: “I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action,” and which was in public view and visible to the public. The MPS were informed of this.

In response to MPS being alerted to the poster, LBC reported having seen a letter from a Metropolitan Police inspector which stated:

“We have looked into this matter and our lawyers say it is not an offence for this poster to be displayed from private premises, even if it can be seen from the street.

This is to do with the precise wording of the legislation.”²

Thus, while the MPS declined to clarify its legal position with us, it provided a written interpretation - viewed by LBC, confirming that no terrorism offences, including sections 13 or 12(1A) Terrorism Act 2000, were engaged.

II. MPS confirmation of legality of MPS position on display of material supporting proscribed organisations from private premises

Despite other statutory provisions and case law establishing that an act may be considered “in public” when it is visible to the public even if originating from private premises, the MPS and its lawyers have taken the opposing view that, in respect of terrorism offences, specifically section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000, this is not the case. The aforementioned letter from the MPS confirmed that it is not an offence for the poster to be displayed from private premises, necessarily means that doing so does not fall within any of the Terrorism Acts offences, including s 12(1A) Terrorism Act 2002.

In summary, the MPS confirmed in their letter, that no terrorism offences, including section 13 and 12(1A), are engaged in such circumstances, and that the display of such material from private premises visible to the public is therefore considered by the MPS to be entirely lawful.

The MPS position is that private premises—rather than public visibility or access—is the decisive factor in determining whether section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is engaged. Under this view, the same act would constitute an offence if carried out on publicly owned land, yet be entirely lawful if carried out from within private property, even when plainly directed at and visible to the public. This is the precedent thus now set by MPS in regards to Terrorism Act offences.

As such, under the MPS view, if someone steps outside their front door onto the street holding a Hizballah flag, this would constitute an offence under section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000, as this would constitute a “public place”. However, if the same person stood one inch inside the doorway or behind a window displaying the same flag, no offence would be made out because they are “inside private premises.”

In effect, the MPS has now created a distinction between being “in a public place” (where the act occurs) and “displayed to the public” (where it is seen), and has confirmed that the latter is lawful, meaning that the visibility of material supporting a proscribed organisation from private premises is

¹ https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/displaying-palestine-action-posters-legal-5HjdF8p_2/

² Ibid

not treated as a “public” act under section 13, nor does it fall within any of Terrorism Act offences, including s 12 (1A), as confirmed by their reported correspondence.

III. MPS confirmation of legality of MPS position on dissemination of material supporting proscribed organisations to be displayed from private premises

In our letter of 26 September 2025 to you, we further wrote regarding the legality of the Defend Our Juries’ “window poster campaign” where DoJ was – and remains³ – producing and disseminating posters for download, and encouraging participants to download, print and display this material which states, “I oppose genocide, I support of Palestine Action.” In that correspondence, we raised specific concerns about the dissemination and encouragement of display of such material in support of a proscribed organisation.

We require clarification on the MPS’s approach to DoJ’s production and dissemination of this material. Maybe a question to consider is if the DoJ changed the wording to, “I support Hizballah ” would the MPS also consider this to be legally disseminated and the encouragement of display, to be equally lawful?

IV. Confirmation sought

Given that the MPS has now publicly confirmed its position, following consultation with its own lawyers, we seek formal confirmation that this interpretation remains the MPS’s current and settled legal position, and clarification of its scope under terrorism legislation.

As such, we require confirmation from the MPS of the following:

A. Scope of Display

1. That the MPS’s formal position is that displaying signs, posters or other material in support of a proscribed organisation from inside private premises, even where visible to the public (for example through a window), is lawful and does not constitute an offence under section 13 TACT 2000 or any other terrorism legislation.
2. That accordingly displaying material in support of any proscribed organisation⁴, including but not limited to Hizballah, the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM), Maniacs Murder Cult (MMC), and all other groups listed under Schedule 2 of the Terrorism Act 2000⁵, from within a private dwelling visible to the public, is lawful.
3. Consequently any arrest, detention or prosecution of a person for displaying such material in the same manner would constitute an unlawful arrest and misuse of police powers.

B. Consistency and Public Interest

4. That the MPS acknowledges that this interpretation necessarily means an individual could lawfully display multiple posters or signs/articles expressing support for a proscribed group, visible from their home, provided such material remains inside private premises.

³ <https://defendourjuries.net/lift-the-ban/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version>

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/schedule/2>

5. That any arrest or seizure action in such circumstances would therefore be unlawful and inconsistent with the MPS's own interpretation of section 13.

C. Dissemination of such material

6. The DoJ campaign involves the preparation, distribution and online dissemination of the "I oppose genocide, I support of Palestine Action" posters for the stated purpose of display inside private premises visible to the public. The MPS has taken no action against the dissemination of those materials. Accordingly, if the display of such materials supporting a proscribed group (as listed in Schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000) from private premises visible to the public is lawful, the MPS is necessarily confirming that the online dissemination, distribution, or provision of such posters for that purpose is likewise lawful.
7. It follows that providing or distributing materials expressing support for any proscribed organisation intended for display inside private premises visible to the public, is likewise lawful and does not constitute an offence under the Terrorism Act 2000 or any related provision.

D. Urgent request for clarification: s.149 Equality Act 2010 and Article 14 ECHR

Given the profound implications of this interpretation for the public, law enforcement, and national security, we request urgent confirmation of the MPS's settled legal position as outlined above.

In pursuance to **section I.** above, remind the MPS that, as a public authority, it is bound by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and by Article 14 ECHR. These duties require the MPS to act fairly and without discrimination between organisations, beliefs or political viewpoints in the exercise of its functions.

Our concerns relate to the same subject matter, terrorism-related offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 in relation to display of support from a window of private premises visible to the public, as questions that the MPS has answered for other parties. Failing to provide us with the equivalent clarification, or offering materially different treatment because of our organisation's viewpoint or the political nature of the protest concerned, would constitute unlawful discrimination, contrary to section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Right to Protest Ltd is an organisation dedicated to protecting and promoting the right to protest and to challenging actions that unlawfully restrict it - particularly protests relating to the ongoing genocide in Gaza⁶ and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

As such, we expect and require a full substantive and timely response as afforded to other parties. We request a substantive written response within 7 days of the date of this letter as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Right to Protest Ltd

⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>