

The Freedom Association

122 Winchcombe St, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 2NW,
Tel: 01242 235 333 e-mail: andrew@tfa.net www.tfa.net

Ms. Katy Bourne,
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner,
Sackville House,
Brooks Close,
Lewes.
BN7 2FZ

8 December 2017

Dear Ms. Bourne,

Thank you for your reply to my letter of complaint regarding the policing of the cancelled talk by Katie Hopkins at the Lewes Speakers Festival. You ended your letter by saying that you hoped your response would provide clarification and reassurance. It has provided neither.

I have been, and continue to be, in close contact with Marc Rattray, the organiser of the festival and with some of those who ran the gauntlet of the protesters, although describing them as protesters is being very generous - they were a violent mob.

The mob should have not been allowed to enter the grounds of All Saints Centre. It is a graveyard, not that the mob showed any respect to those who are buried there. The route through the main entrance was blocked, and even the route to the side entrance was impossible for some, such as the intimidation ticket holders received. Many ticket holders decided that it was not safe to proceed to the centre and turned away. This was a direct result of the lack of a proactive policing presence.

If you don't believe me, read this account from a member of the public who contacted me as a result of media coverage:

http://www.tfa.net/what_do_you_have_to_do_to_get_arrested_by_sussex_police

There is also this account which was sent to me the following day:

http://www.tfa.net/hooded_thugs_had_established_mob_rule

Many of those present feared for their lives and were dismayed at the lack of a police presence. If you would like to know what it was like to be inside All Saints Centre, watch these two videos:

http://www.tfa.net/video_protesters_breaking_into_all_saints_centre_lewes_at_the_cancelled_katie_hopkins_talk

http://www.tfa.net/video_after_the_protesters_forced_entry_to_all_saints_centre_lewes_in_search_for_katie_hopkins

I must also take issue with you regarding your assertion that there was no intelligence to suggest that any unlawful protest should be expected. There were social media groups for protesters discussing attendance and tactics. Antifa were on these stating they were attending. People discussed "throwing entrails". Arrest support was discussed, as was bringing tools to gain access to the building and harming Katie Hopkins. Andrew Chitty of Sussex University encouraged students to go and there was a Sussex University Facebook group for their protest group. There was a meeting in which protest organisers repeatedly stated they thought a protest could cause harm or damage.

You don't have to be a tech genius or a detective to find these threads. If I can find them, why couldn't the police?

For the avoidance of doubt, here is a list of crimes that were committed in under an hour. I list them because Sussex Police said in a statement that no arrests were made:

- Liquid (urine) thrown into a security guards face.
- Both police officers physically assaulted.
- Security guard receiving torn tricep.
- Elderly members of the public pushed to the ground.
- Elderly members of the public pelted with eggs.
- More than 10 people driven into my a mobility scooter.
- Windows broken.
- Doors crowbarred open.
- Private function stormed in violent manner terrorising attendees.
- Children being encouraged to throw eggs at police officers.

Doesn't the list that I have provided warrant an investigation? Why weren't police officers willing to investigate? Surely, this should trouble both the Chief Constable and you?

I have also been informed that by 10.00 pm about ten officers arrived. Too little, too late, and certainly not thirty officers that you assert in your reply to me.

You also need to be aware that Lewes Town Council did not provide any security officers. Perhaps a handyman, the town clerk, and two ladies who work at the venue, but no-one versed in security.

Katie Hopkins and Marc Rattray provided four security officers: one close protection, two bouncers, and a manager.

The reason why Sussex Police recommended the cancellation of the event was because it was ill prepared. All the evidence points to that conclusion. The Chief Constable has already received a joint letter of complaint. Over thirty people who had tickets to attend the event have added their names to that letter.

Whilst I appreciate that you cannot comment on operational matters, you can, as you said, challenge the Chief Constable. I urge you to do so.

I look forward to your reply, and out of courtesy, I wish to inform you that I am releasing this letter into the public domain.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Allison', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Allison,
Head of Campaigns
The Freedom Association