

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS COMMITTEE, 16 APRIL 2019

A proposed procession by the group Apprentice Boys of Derry (Bridgeton) was considered by the council's Public Processions Committee on 16 April, 2019.

The organiser had notified the council of its intention to carry out a procession, with around 80 participants, between Tullis Street and Cathedral Square at 9.45 and returning from Cathedral Square to Tullis Street at 12.15 pm on Sunday 21 April 2019.

You can read the full report that went to the Public Processions Committee here.

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDN0G2UZLDN2U>

In reaching this decision the Committee placed reliance on the opinion of Superintendent John McBride of Police Scotland. The Superintendent explained that the events of 7 July 2018 involving Canon White were still very much in local people's minds and reported that there was still a degree of anger amongst some in the local community. The Superintendent advised that there would be gatherings outside St Alphonsus' and St Mary's churches to protest the procession. Further, Superintendent McBride stated that he had recently received highly reliable intelligence indicating that the procession would be followed by a significant number of persons intent on confronting any opposition to the procession. Superintendent McBride was of the opinion that this new intelligence indicated that there would be a serious risk of public disorder should the protestors and the procession supporters meet outside either of the two churches.

The information before the Committee indicated that the purpose of the organisers was to have a public procession to and from Easter services. The Committee was of the view that the purpose of the procession would not be significantly impaired by the procession having to go along an alternate route avoiding St Alphonsus' or St Mary's churches. Given the risk of disorder associated with any route passing by either of these churches, the Committee considered such a condition imposed to mitigate the risk of disorder would be a proportionate condition.

The reasons for the imposing these conditions are:

1. The Committee concluded that, on balance, it is considered that there is a clear risk that if the procession was allowed to proceed as originally proposed there would be a high likelihood of public disorder. The Committee considered it necessary to place proportionate conditions on the procession to mitigate the impact.
2. The approach adopted by the Committee recognises the organiser's right of freedom of assembly and balances it against the risks, including the risks to the participants in the procession.

THEREFORE the said Council hereby orders that the procession should take place on 21 April 2019 with an amended route. The Procession will assemble in Tullis Street at 09:15 hours and start at 09:30 hours. For the return, the procession will gather at Cathedral Square at 12:00 hours and start its return journey at 12.15 hours. The route to

Cathedral Square will be: Tullis Street; Main Street; Bridgeton Cross; London Road; Fielden Street; Gallowgate; Bellgrove Street; Duke Street; John Knox Street; and into Cathedral Square. The return route will be Cathedral Square; John Knox Street; Duke Street; Bellgrove Street; Gallowgate; Fielden Street; London Road; Bridgeton Cross; James Street; Mackeith Street; Main Street; and Tullis Street, then disperse.