

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

Public Procession by the Apprentice Boys of Derry (Bridgeton)

on Saturday 1 June 2019

Order in Terms of Section 63 (1)

WHEREAS a procession in public is proposed to be held by the organisation, the Apprentice Boys of Derry (Bridgeton).

AND WHEREAS under Section 63(1) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, as amended, Glasgow City Council, may, after consulting the Chief Constable in respect of processions, notice of which has been given or falls to be treated as having been given in accordance with Section 62(1) of the said Act, make an Order imposing conditions on the holding of a procession;

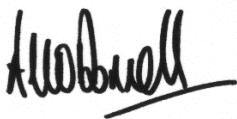
AND WHEREAS notice of the said procession has been given or falls to be treated as having been as aforesaid and the said Council has consulted the said Chief Constable;

THEREFORE the Chief Executive of the said Council, acting under delegated powers, hereby orders that the procession should take place on Saturday 1 June 2019 with an amended route.

The Procession will assemble in Gateside Street at 1645 hours and start at 1700 hours. The route to Tullis Street will be; Gateside Street, Duke Street Bellgrove Street, Gallowgate, Fielden Street, Crownpoint Road, Abercromby Street, London Road Bridgeton Cross, James Street, McKeith Street, Main Street and Tullis Street, then disperse.

The reasons for the imposing these conditions are:

1. The Council has concluded that having regard to the written submission on behalf of the Chief Constable, a copy of which is attached hereto, it is considered that there is a clear set of circumstances which give rise to a high risk of disruption to the life of the community and places an excessive burden on Police Scotland in terms of the deployment of specialist Police resources from across Scotland which would be necessary if the procession was allowed to proceed as originally proposed. The Council therefore considers it necessary to place proportionate conditions on the procession to mitigate that impact.
2. The approach adopted by the Council recognises the organiser's right of freedom of assembly and balances it against the risks identified by the Chief Constable.



Chief Executive
Glasgow City Council

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF POLICE SCOTLAND TO GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL RE THE PROCESSION APPLICATIONS BY APPRENTICE BOYS OF DERRY (BRIDGETON), DALMARNOCK NO SURRENDER BRANCH CLUB, DALMARNOCK O&P DISTRICT 50 & ORANGE AND PURPLE DISTRICT 37

(PROCESSIONS PROPOSED FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1ST AND 2ND JUNE 2019)

On behalf of the Chief Constable I welcome the opportunity to make this submission to the Council. I understand it is proposed that the exigent circumstances of these applications mean that they may be considered by the Chief Executive, under delegated powers, rather than by the Public Processions Committee of the Council, as would be the more usual route.

More particularly, I understand the Council to have determined to consider the said notifications and to have invited presentation of this submission in consequence of certain concerns having been intimated about the forthcoming processions.

The Council will be aware of the Dalmarnock Orange and Purple District 50 procession held in the Calton last Saturday, 18th May. The procession route took it past St. Alphonsus church. By prior arrangement, there was a counter-protest (against the procession going past the church) on the pavement outside St. Alphonsus. Although our assessment of the position indicated that both groups were to be peaceful in their conduct there was a comparatively large police presence and significant policing plan in operation. The size of the counter protest alone was some way in excess of that witnessed on previous occasions. (The policing operation for this parade used in excess of 100 officers, many in specialist roles, when a comparable parade last year, and prior to the events of 07 July, required a purely conventional policing operation of only 11 officers). There has, in recent weeks, been a distinct and frankly troubling change in the terms and tone of commentary and rhetoric about Orange Order and/or ABOD processions going past St. Alphonsus and/or St. Mary's churches, in the Calton. A difference of view about such things is, of course, nothing new but the recent language has been more strident, on both sides of the argument, and positions are becoming more polarised. Whilst it is to be hoped that, through engagement and discussion in the relevant communities, some of that can be addressed in positive ways in the short term I am bound to recognise that further processions along the same route may only make things worse.

In the course of last Saturday's procession and as it went past St. Alphonsus there was heard –quite distinctly from within those supporting the parade – shouts of 'Fenian bastards' and 'paedos'. I think it fair to say that the abuse was directed towards those in the counter protest. Work continues to identify those responsible. Although I am glad to indicate that there was no disorder in consequence that is likely only to have been because of the very heavy police presence.

I do not know whether those responsible for the abuse joined the procession with the intention of behaving in such a fashion or whether their actions were more spontaneous. In a sense, it does not greatly matter for present purposes. The forthcoming planned processions are also going to attract counter protests if they go along the same routes. It seems sensible, then, to assume that there is the very real prospect of a repetition of the same abuse and possibly even something altogether worse. I do not, with respect, see that it is at all appropriate, then, for the Council to – in effect – be invited to facilitate the creation of such obvious points of conflict

It seems clear enough to us that a repetition of last Saturday's events outside St. Alphonsus is likely if the proposed processions go along the proposed routes. It also, and therefore, seems clear enough to us that that is likely to have a significant and disruptive impact on the life of the local community. It would also place an excessive burden on Police Scotland as far as deploying resources necessary to mitigate the risks arising is concerned. The policing presence required for the parades would draw on specialist resources from across Scotland.

In terms of Section 63 (8)(a)(iv) and/or (b), we invite the Council to impose a condition on the processions to reroute them away from the churches. We are content, with regards to the relevant ECHR provisions, that would be lawful, necessary and proportionate.

Police Scotland has, as would be usual in such circumstances, drawn up a Community Impact Assessment in relation to the proposed processions and to consider its likely impact within the local community. The Assessment is a 'living' document and one which continues to be developed in recognition of our most up to date understanding of the position.

The overall assessment is that the proposed procession is expected to substantially raise local experienced and evidenced tension; that this rise in tension may be localised within the geographic area or, more broadly, the local communities. The views strongly expressed by Canon White in his recent letter to the Committee as someone who is not only a local resident but the spiritual leader in the relevant parish communities requires to be taken into account by Police Scotland.

Superintendent John McBride
Specialist Operations
Greater Glasgow Division
Police Scotland