

Warning to South Yorkshire Police

Rights of Householders, Police warnings issued during week commencing Monday 6th February 2017 and arrests made in the same week.

In the past week you have issued several warnings and made two arrests in the matter of householders inviting individuals to carry out protests on their land which lies inside the danger zone for tree felling operations. You have also informed a householder that if she conducted such a protest on her own premises on St Ronan's Rd, during planned felling in week commencing Monday 13 February 2017, she would be arrested.

Having received legal advice I believe that these warnings and arrests are unlawful and, with other concerned people, I am seeking to work with our lawyers to prepare a case, as a matter of urgency, to challenge these warnings in court.

If South Yorkshire Police continue to issue such warnings or make further arrests on private premises this may be used as evidence of persistent wrongdoing by the Police.

I and my friends are also deeply concerned that the police force on whom we depend have been drawn into a dispute between citizens and a large international company. This is especially worrying when the contract between Amey and Sheffield City Council is highly secret, making it impossible to understand whether the tree felling is lawful or within the legal conditions of the contract.

We advise South Yorkshire Police to seek evidence from Amey that their felling work is lawful in terms of the SCC/Amey Contract, in terms of all relevant regulations for environmental protection, and that reasons given to Sheffield City Council and the public are truthful and not simply a 'front' for reasons hidden by contract secrecy.

Professor Chris Rust

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