

TEXT OF AGREED APOLOGY APPROVED AT THE HIGH COURT ON 27 April 2009

I write in respect of the incident on the 30th October 2006, when Metropolitan Police officers arrested you outside the Mexican Embassy in London for offences under the Public Order Act 1986. Following this arrest, you were detained in custody for approx forty hours. The subsequent prosecution resulted in your acquittal.

First, it is accepted that your arrest was unlawful and that any force used on you during your arrest was therefore an assault and battery.

Although the other aspects of your claim were denied, I am in no doubt about the significant effect that this matter has had on you and on your democratic right to peaceful protest.

The purpose of this letter is formally to apologise on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service for the events of that day which led to your arrest, detention and prosecution. I unreservedly regret the upset and distress that this must have caused.

I hope you agree that it is in everyone's best interest that the civil claim is concluded and I genuinely hope that it will enable you to put this matter behind you. The policing of public order events and demonstrations is frequently a challenging task for police officers. It requires a careful balance of the rights and freedoms of often conflicting interests and necessitates officers making difficult decisions under notable pressure. In this case it is clear that balance was not achieved and I wish to assure you that lessons have been learned. You should not have been arrested and I again apologise for this.

I trust that any future dealings that you have with the MPS are more positive.

Yours sincerely,

Detective Chief Inspector Alex Gibbs

Directorate of Professional Standards

Metropolitan Police Service