



TOTAL POLICING

Our Ref: 2012110000995

17 December 2012

Murad Qureshi
City Hall Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM, MBA, MA (Oxon)
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

Tel: 101

www.met.police.uk

Dear Murad,

Thank you for your letter dated the 01 November 2012, received in my office on 09 November 2012, highlighting your concerns regarding the English Defence League (EDL).

In respect of the comments made by Sir Paul and Adrian Tudway, I do not feel it is appropriate for me to comment on what they have said about EDL in the past. Whilst I can understand your desire to have clarity around the manner in which EDL are described there is no official classification of groups other than those who are proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. As you will be aware, EDL is not a proscribed organisation.

Our focus is on how we deal with such non-proscribed groups, when they want to protest. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has a legal duty under the Human Rights Act 1998 to act in a way that is compatible with the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. We can only interfere with such rights to the extent that is lawful and proportionate. By their very nature, protests can often be emotive and controversial and a great deal of effort is put into

engaging with all parties by the MPS to balance what are often competing demands.

In your letter you also refer to the arrest of EDL members. As this is an ongoing investigation it would not be appropriate for me to comment any further. However, I hope the police response generally demonstrates the commitment of the MPS to do all that it can to proactively and determinedly use all tactics and resources available to tackle criminality and prevent disorder.

Yours sincerely
Bernard Hogan-Howe

Bernard Hogan-Howe
Commissioner

cc Joanne McCartney - Chair of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee