



RE: APPGDC INQUIRY INTO POLICING OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS, CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND THE PCSC BILL

QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES AT THE GATHERING

Many thanks for considering a submission to the inquiry. The APPG is seeking to understand whether and/or how important rights, including the right to free expression and peaceful assembly were respected and facilitated at the gathering that you attended. The APPG is interested in your recollection of the gathering and the events leading up to it.

The APPG would be grateful if you could include any documentary evidence (such as photographs, or recordings) to support or supplement your submissions.

You may wish to structure your response around the following questions:

1. **Do you consider the law and guidance in place at the time to be sufficiently clear in respect of public gatherings for the purpose of protest/free expression/peaceful assembly during the coronavirus pandemic?**
2. **Did you understand your attendance at the gathering to be lawful or unlawful? If unlawful, why did you attend?**
3. **How did you and other attendees behave at the gathering?** Were people socially distancing and wearing masks? Was anyone violent or aggressive? Did you feel the event was hijacked in any way?
4. **To what extent do you believe police officers respected and facilitated your right to free speech and peaceful assembly?** How did police officers behave towards you and others at the gathering? Do you believe they behaved appropriately?
5. **How would you describe the actions of the police at the gathering?** When did police officers make arrests? What other actions did you see police officers take? Did you see police officers acting or speaking aggressively or violently?
6. The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill will expand the circumstances under which the government and police can limit public gatherings, and their powers in relation to those gatherings. **Given your experience, would you like to comment on this?**

Please add anything else you consider relevant.

Please submit your answers in writing to Sam Fowles, Counsel to the Inquiry at sfowles@icdr.co.uk. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 14 April.