

ACTION AGAINST THE POLICE

If you have been :

Detained ,

Arrested,

Injured,

Or had property damaged/confiscated

Then you may be able to take action against the Police

This could include:

1. A prosecution against them
2. A civil action against them (ie suing them)
3. A complaint which will be investigated independently (ask legal support for a leaflet or see www.scotland.gov.uk)

If the incident took place in Scotland, then you must take action in the Scottish Courts and only Scottish Solicitors will be able to represent you.

You will need to see a Solicitor who specialises in Civil actions who will be able to advise you about how strong your case is and what you need to do.

You can:

Contact Beltrami Berlow Solicitors on 0131 554 0999 or 0141 554 0999
www.beltramiberlow.co.uk who are acting as criminal lawyers for G8 legal

support and other groups on the days of protest and can give further advice if needed. If you have been arrested and they are not acting for you, you could either talk to your Criminal Solicitor who can refer you on to a specialist Civil Solicitor or you can contact Beltrami Bertram as above

or you can contact the Scottish Human Rights Centre:

www.scottishhumanrightscentre.org.uk or phone 01413325960 they are Based in Glasgow . They do not take on cases but can refer you on.

You will need to gather evidence. The first few seconds are crucial, they may be very chaotic and stressful, which is why it is useful to be prepared before hand. Evidence gathering for both criminal and civil proceedings must begin immediately

- Get contact details of witness(es)
- Contact the Legal Support Office who may have statements made by witnesses who have witnessed the incident and other relevant information
- Photographs and videos are vital not only of the victim but anything else taken that day which may provide a context
- Individual police numbers if possible (if they are not wearing them jot down descriptions and rank),
- names of the ambulance crews and other emergency services where relevant

- “impartial witnesses” are **crucial** as fellow activist statements may be ignored.
- car number plates
- Find out the time, maybe get a photo with a watch or clock in if possible.
- Put out an immediate call for witnesses and photos, encourage people to write witness statements ASAP

You CAN sue individual police officers or employees if it is not possible to sue the police force or corporation depending on the circumstances, for example you were beaten up by an off duty security guard, then do seek legal advice as you may be able to sue them as a private individual.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority may compensate activists who are the victims of crime so it is an avenue worth pursuing.

Court cases can be very costly. You will need to apply for legal aid. The police/security etc may well offer an out of court settlement if there is a good case so there may be no need to go Court. If there is no settlement concerning liability there will be a trial in the civil court and a jury will decide. If there is no agreement concerning the amount a judge will decide. If you win you will then be paid compensation for your injury, loss of earnings, etc. This will vary depending on the seriousness of the incident and the damage suffered.

Legal Support Office No

Web site: www.g8leaglsupport.info