

1. Made on behalf of the Claimant
2. Martin Rattigan
3. Statement No. 1
4. Exhibits: MR1/1-88
5. Dated: 13 November 2024

**IN THE HIGH COURT AT THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
KINGS BENCH**

CASE NO:

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN INJUNCTION UNDER
S.222 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND
S.130 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

BETWEEN:

LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

CLAIMANT

- and -

1. Persons Unknown who participates between the hours of 3:00pm and 7:00am in a gathering of 2 or more persons within the London Borough of Enfield, Map **Exhibit MR1/1** at which some of those present engage in motor racing or motor stunts or other dangerous or obstructive driving.
2. Persons unknown who participate between the hours of 3:00pm and 7:00am in a gathering of 2 or more persons within the London Borough of Enfield, **Map Exhibit MR1/1** with the intention or expectation that some of those present will engage in motor racing or motor stunts or other dangerous or obstructive driving.
3. Persons Unknown promoting organising publicising (by any means whatsoever) any gathering between the hours of 3:00pm and 7:00am of 2 or more persons with the intention or expectation that some of those present will engage in motor racing or motor stunts or other dangerous or obstructive driving within London Borough of Enfield, **Map Exhibit MR1/1**.

DEFENDANTS

**WITNESS STATEMENT
MARTIN RATTIGAN**

I, **MARTIN RATTIGAN** of the London Borough of Enfield, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA **WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:**

INTRODUCTION

1. I make this Witness Statement in support of the Claimant's Part 8 Claim seeking injunctive relief but also in support of an application for an interlocutory interim injunction in the terms of the Draft Order against the Defendants.
2. I exhibit to this witness statement a single through-paginated exhibit bundle marked '**MR1**', and references to the page number(s) herein are to page numbers within the exhibit bundle **MR1**. Where I do not have direct knowledge of the facts related in this witness statement, I indicate the source of my knowledge.
3. I am the Head of Regulatory Services at the Council of the London Borough of Enfield ('**the Council**') and I have held this post since August 2022. Prior to that I was the Head of Environmental Protection and have worked in Regulation for over 30 years at the Council. My role captures managing various front-line services including the Anti-Social Behaviour Team whose remit to ensure public safety is maintained within the the London Borough of Enfield ('**Enfield**' or '**the Borough**', when referred to geographically).
4. The Council has since on or before around 2018 been facing an increased prevalence of young people using cars to perform stunts, race and cruise within the Borough. I shall call this '**Car Cruising**', although it encompasses all of these activities.
5. Car Cruising arises through gatherings of groups, who appear predominantly to be made up of young men, meet to show off their cars, perform stunts and race each other. These gatherings, that have commonly been referred to as 'car meets' within the complaints, have been a problem in Enfield for several years. The complaints received include the excessive noise created by the car meets such as revving engines, vehicles with modified exhausts that produce loud revs/bangs as well as the general noise that occurs where a large crowd of spectators gather to watch the activity. These crowds are often in the hundreds. Given the numbers of participants, I believe that the events are advertised on social media (perhaps including through group messages on forums such as WhatsApp and Telegram) shortly before the event, which restricts the Council's ability to take any preventive measures. The Police have advised these events are advertised predominantly on the 'dark web'

(**Exhibit MR1/64**). Given this, I do not, however, have evidence of how these events are advertised.

6. These meets cause serious danger to public safety . The drivers that attend show off their cars by doing dangerous stunts (known as doughnuts) and drive at excessive speeds. This activity poses a risk to the safety of other road users and pedestrians.
7. In 2018, the Council introduced Public Space Protection Orders (**'PSPO'**) to deter Anti-Social Behaviour associated with this activity in Enfield, following a public consultation. During the consultation phase with partners, the Police requested a PSPO for car cruising, due to known activity, mainly on the A406 (North Circular Rd) and A10 and in retail car parks off the A406.

In December 2013, a tragic accident occurred on London's North Circular Road involving a high-speed "cat and mouse" game between several cars. Jawad Qureshi, Haider Qureshi, and Toheed Robani were killed when their Subaru Impreza collided with a Vauxhall Astra, causing a severe crash and fire. The drivers of the other cars involved, Ali Hassan, Bader Nokhas, and Abdul Hussain, admitted to causing death by careless driving. They were sentenced at the Old Bailey in January 2017. They were each sentenced to nine months in jail and banned from driving for 19 months. His Honour Judge Noel Lucas described their actions as "stupid" and emphasized that such behaviour on public roads is intolerable as set out the press in January 2017: [Three men jailed after 'cat and mouse' car chase deaths - BBC News](#); [North Circular crash: Speeding drivers face jail after 'cat and mouse' car chase killed three young men | London Evening Standard | The Standard](#); [Racers who killed 3 on London's A406 jailed for 9 months | Daily Mail Online](#) (**MR1/2-28**).

8. The PSPO was renewed in 2021 (**Exhibit MR1/29-31**) and sets out that:

"No person shall participate in vehicle cruising activity as a passenger or driver of a vehicle and/or congregate to spectate vehicle cruising activity within the designated area in the Public Spaces Protection Order."

The designated area was based on feedback from the police and captured the following areas:

The A10;
Enfield Retail Park EN1 1TH;
The A406;
Ravenside Retail Park N18 3HA
Tesco Car Park in Glover Drive N18 3HF;
Millmarsh Lane EN3;
Riverwalk Road Business Park EN3 7QN; and
Colosseum Business Park EN1 3FD.

This 2021 PSPO expired on 3 February 2024 and the Council is in the process of reviewing and consulting on re-introducing a PSPO for coverage across the whole of the Borough. This application for injunctive relief is made in addition for two reasons: (a) there is a pressing need to be able to take enforcement action to prevent this dangerous behaviour pending the necessary consultation process before re-introducing the PSPO; and (b) the PSPO did not, at least alone, appear to have a sufficient deterrent effect on the participants, which is evidenced by the considerable number of complaints about dangerous driving, racing and cruising within the three period; and the Council considers that it would be reasonable to impose an injunction, that would have the consequence that any person found to be in breach of the injunction would face imprisonment.

HISTORY OF THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

9. The information in this witness statement is taken from police reports, witness statements and reports to the police and other agencies of the incidents of car cruising (with the dates of the reporting) as collated in a table/log at **MR1/32-60**. The Council relies on these accounts as reliable, contemporaneous hearsay evidence of the events described.

10. Before 2021, car meets in the borough were reported to be occurring on Saturday nights, with racing on the A10. Complaints were mainly about concerns for safety and noise from the modified exhausts. On 6 June 2021 we were contacted by Police Sergeant Mark Wells, Roads and Transport Policing Command at the Metropolitan Police who indicated he was supervising a small team of officers (called Operation Ghost Freak) that were tackling car meetings in London. He advised that the Police had recently recorded a high number of events in Enfield. I understand that people meeting at these car meet locations often drive elsewhere, then commit anti-social behavior and dangerous driving offence(s). Sergeant Wells wanted to discuss the car meetings with a view to working with the Council to reduce the impact of these events.

11. I **Exhibit** at **MR1/61-70** section 9 Witness Statements from a number of police officers regarding this ongoing issue in support of this Application for an injunction.
12. A record of these car meet events covering period 3 January 2021 to date is shown in **Exhibit MR1/32-60** I will set out below in more detail examples from this log with details of the complaints and issues arising and in particular issues of:
 - (a) The noise associated with these activities being detrimental to the quality of life of residents, particularly given that it usually takes place at night and sometimes until as late/early as 3 am;
 - (b) Health, safety and welfare and risks to residents and other road users/pedestrians, including risks to life;
 - (c) The impact on traffic in the area;
 - (d) The impact on pollution in the area, given the modified exhausts on many of these cars and the large number of them in the gatherings;
 - (e) The impact on businesses in the area; and
 - (f) The anti-Social Behaviour that accompanies these gatherings, which witnesses to it (set out in the table of complaints) say has included noise, gatherings of large numbers of people, people having sex in cars and disposing used condoms and more.
13. On 9 June 2021, a resident of the borough emailed the Council. The resident wishes to remain anonymous as they fear of reprisals as participants or spectators at the car meet activity could reside locally. The email referred to residents who resided in a local street that backed onto one of the retail car parks in Enfield. The resident was concerned about the anti-social behaviour happening constantly in a car park (Southbury Leisure Centre) during late evenings. These are generally referred to as A10 car meets (**Exhibit MR1/71**).
14. Additionally, on 10 June 2021, we first became aware of car meets at Forty Hall car park when another resident, who wishes to remain anonymous contacted Enfield by email to complain about car meets. They set out that they had been having problems for years, where at weekends they were disturbed by the noise of cars been driven around Forty Hall car park at high speed and then the drivers performing "doughnut spins". There were numerous cars and a large group of spectators at these events. They reported that since lockdown last year anti -social behaviour in the car park, in the park and along Forty Hill had noticeably increased. They also mentioned that

when the car park is locked, they saw cars parked along Forty Hill, often drinking, smoking and dumping their rubbish on the floor (**Exhibit MR1/72-73**).

15. On the 25 June 2021, a resident who wishes to remain anonymous contacted the Out of Hours Noise Team and reported that at 21:56 there was a car meet at Innova Business Park, Enfield, EN3 (**Exhibit MR1/74**).
16. Two further reports were received from residents on 1 July 2021, starting at 21:09 and 18 July 2021 which started at 20:00 and went on until 23:00. These reports concerned the on-going gatherings of cars at Innova Park. The resident reported that it seemed to be a meeting place for very loud back firing cars, loud revving, and screeching tyres. The 18 July report was from the police, which stated that they had a lot of reports come in over the weekend regarding illegal car meets causing ASB (doughnuts, loud exhausts, racing on Mollison Avenue, tyre marks, obstructions etc.) The police reported that in the last couple of months many residents have reported illegal car meets in the industrial car park. It is reported that this happens a couple of times a week at night, mainly Thursday/Friday nights, and/or the weekends. The 18 July 2021 night report was a Sunday evening which took place during 8pm-11pm.
17. On 13 September 2021, a report was received to the Police twitter account that there was a pre-arranged car meet at Lockfield Avenue EN3 (which is a location on the east side of the borough), reporting that there were 40 people & 30 cars plus present (**Exhibit MR1/75**).
18. On 22 September 2021, the police reported that a resident had reported that there was a car meet in the Southeast of the Borough, at the IKEA car park, N18. There were approximately 20-25 cars racing each other and the resident wanted to complain about the noise from the revving engines (**Exhibit MR1/76-77**).
19. On 27 February 2022, we received a report from the police that information from a resident stated that dozens of cars were gathered at Innova Pak EN3 (**Exhibit MR1/78-79**). The report said that the vehicles were speeding and making excessive noise and they said that it generally happens at the weekends. The resident stated that this is disruptive and caused her anxiety issues.

20. On 8 June 2022, a security guard reported to the police that at approximately 23:27 there was a car meet in the car park at Enfield Retail Park, Enfield Crown Road, EN1 1TH. They reported that there about 50 vehicles causing a nuisance doing doughnuts in the car park (**Exhibit MR1/80**).
21. On Sunday night of 14 August 2022, a local resident reported to the Council by email that there was a car meet at the former B&Q car park, Great Cambridge Road (A10), known as the Coliseum Retail Park, EN1 1TH. This is often referred to, as the A10 car meets, and during 2022-2023 become one of the most problematic areas within the borough for car meets along with Innova Park within the Enfield area.
22. During the period between August 2022 to September 2023 Enfield had 30 car meets (**Exhibit MR1/38-53**) arising at the former B&Q car park, Great Cambridge Road (A10), known as the Coliseum Retail Park, EN1 1TH, with reports of over 200 people attending. These car meets are not confined to this area and also occur at other locations across many areas in Enfield.
23. Given the regularity of these meets, and in particular at the Coliseum Retail Park, EN1 1TH, in December 2022 the Council commenced meetings with Police Sergeant Mark Wells, Roads and Transport Policing Command about the ongoing car meets and how these could be resolved.
24. The Colosseum Retail Park, EN1 1TH, was within the designated areas covered by the PSPO introduced in 2019 (**Exhibit MR1/29-31**) which prohibited car meets. Unfortunately, the PSPO had not resulted in deterring car meet events occurring in this area as evidenced in the foregoing and the table of meets logged at **Exhibit MR1/32-60**.
25. While the police had requested the owners of the Colosseum Retail Park car park to introduce preventative measures, there was no progress by February 2023. The Council opened dialogue with the managing agents for the Coliseum Retail Park in February 2023.
26. Between February 2023 and August 2023 there was regular and constant dialogue with the agents for the Coliseum Retail Park. An agreement was reached for the agents to implement physical barrier measures, to prevent racing and stunts. This was completed after considerable negotiations between the agents and the leaseholders, with the area being restricted initially by a barrier at the entrance which

was subsequently vandalised. Concrete blocks have now been placed strategically to prevent the vehicles from being able to race and perform stunts. However, whilst this is a positive step, it does not prevent car meets and cruising arising on the surrounding roads in this area.

27. As can be evidenced from the log, the Council continues to grapple with the issue of car cruising within its area and more recent incidents of issues arising are shown in **Exhibit MR1/55-60**.
28. I also refer to video footage of 2022 showing vehicles donutting and racing and performing stunts (**Exhibit MR1/89-92**).
29. On 2 August 2024, within the car park of Morrisons Supermarket, Southbury Rd, EN1, it was reported that a vehicle accidentally hit a pedestrian before making off which is evidenced in the incident report from Enfield Public Safety Centre (CCTV Centre) and MET Control report (**Exhibit MR1/89**).
30. The Council has also received a multitude of complaints from residents prior to the implementation of its first PSPO in 2018 and to date and the complaints raised by residents from 2021 to date are outlined in the log (**Exhibit MR1/32-60**).
31. The council has obtained impact statements from a business and resident affected by the car meets. These individuals wish to remain anonymous as they fear reprisals because at least some participants or spectators at the car meet activity are likely to reside locally. Their impact statements with their personal details redacted are **Exhibited at MR1/82-88**. The Council did have one other statement, but the witness has withdrawn it for fear of reprisals. The Council has been unable to secure additional statements from residents and businesses due to fear of potential actions of revenge on those giving evidence. However, it relies on the substantial hearsay evidence of this activity collated by the Council from police and other records and contained in the table/log at **Exhibit MR1/32-60**.

32. Notwithstanding police efforts to curtail car meets within the Enfield area and the physical modifications landowners have made to their properties to prevent access, car meets and Car Cruising remain a significant problem within Enfield and continues to cause distress to residents and places the public at risk of injury.
33. Accordingly, the court is asked to grant an injunction prevent car meets/cruising which will not only provide additional powers to the police but act as a deterrent. I am willing to attend court to give evidence on behalf of the Council.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: *m Rattigan*

Name: Martin Rattigan

Dated this 13th November 2024