

Question to Surrey Police and Crime Panel – 21 November 2022

Many residents of Tandridge know I am a member of the Police and Crime Panel and as a result I have been asked by several why more action is not being taken by the police with the protesters that block the M25? The disruption at J6 on the M25 has a significant impact over the whole of the Tandridge district. I have found it impossible to provide them with a satisfactory answer to explain when laws are being broken the police are not acting. I have been quoted laws by residents that make it clear it is an offence to block the public highway but no action has been taken and there have even been pictures of the police handing water to those blocking the road instead of moving them on and arresting them. Residents expect the police to apply the law without fear or favour and there is strong feeling that lack of decisive action by police when the protests started have only encouraged more protests as those involved feel they can get away with this. Can I have an assurance that you will be using all your influence with the police to insist they now apply a zero-tolerance approach to any protesters who block or disrupt the highway?

Cllr Mick Gillman, Tandridge District Council

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