

Biofuelwatch expresses serious concerns about Edinburgh Police harassment of peaceful protest

Biofuelwatch, a UK campaign group which supported national protests against UK biofuel blending on 15th April, wishes to express grave concerns about the arrest and treatment of five participants of a peaceful protest by Edinburgh Police, and about criminal charges having been brought against them.

We are aware that the arrests took place during a lawful banner protest organised by Edinburgh Agrofuels Action outside a BP petrol station in the Bruntsfield area. Witnesses have confirmed that the protest was entirely peaceful and light-hearted. The five people who were arrested, all of them members of the Edinburgh Clown Army, have been charged with breach of the peace. We understand that one of the women required medical attention due to the way she was treated in custody.

We strongly support the Edinburgh Clown Army members who took part in the agrofuel protest in Bruntsfield and are deeply concerned about the actions of Edinburgh Police. The government's biofuel policies are contributing to catastrophic climate change, to large numbers of people being displaced from their land, to human rights abuses, and to more people going hungry. On 15th April, hundreds of people across the UK exercised their right to protest against those destructive policies. We are saddened and alarmed that some of the people who did so in Edinburgh have faced what appears to be wrongful arrest and police charges.

Biofuelwatch Team

www.biofuelwatch.org.uk

info@biofuelwatch.org.uk