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5<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave, copied to Sgt Leahy, Constable Tebboth,

We wrote to you on the 25th September, 2019 and have not yet received a reply. Angie Zelter and Paul Stephens attended a police liaison meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with your police liaison officers Sgt Leahy and Constable Tebboth. They said they were in direct communication with senior officers including Gold, Silver and Bronze as part of the Gateway Team. They did not know of our letter of 25<sup>th</sup> September but said they would ask about it.

Angie Zelter made it very clear at the liaison meeting that XR Peace (like all of XR) is totally committed to nonviolence in a very deep and embedded way. We know we cannot create the society we all need to deal with climate collapse and to survive with dignity and compassion, unless we all commit to nonviolence. When speaking about XR Peace she stated that we would make sure that the lane coming from New Scotland Yard (NSY) towards Horseguards Ave, along the Embankment where we will be blocking the road, would be kept in a state that could be cleared within a few minutes if any emergency vehicle needed to use it. Many of the people coming to the XR Peace blockade are from Trident Ploughshares that has over 25 years of nonviolent and honest relationships with the police. You can trust us as we hope to trust you.

Angie Zelter was sent an email forwarded from our XR Liaisons Paulo and Paul which had been sent to them on 3<sup>rd</sup> October from Sgt Leahy and which stated the following:-

*“I have been asked to specifically highlight the issue of emergency vehicle access and egress from New Scotland Yard.*

*I know you asked if there are blue light movements out of NSY and we do appreciate your commitment to the “blue light protocol”*

*However there are critically important movements, in and out of NSY of vehicles with and without emergency equipment.*

*These vehicles may be carrying officers connected to terrorism operations, organised crime, serious child sexual abuse and many other critical matters.*

*Access and egress MUST be facilitated 24 hrs 7 days a week.”*

In response the XR Peace Team have carefully considered your statements and fully understand your dilemmas, as I hope you understand ours. We have pointed out on our website and in our conversations that the ongoing wars and the exploitative practices and illegalities committed by our Government and its departments including the military and police<sup>1</sup> are causing a climate catastrophe that is already affecting millions of people around the planet. We need the government and all its institutions to tell the truth and remedy the problems. This will take time we know. But we must

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<sup>1</sup> To give a few examples – \*the Trident nuclear weapons system that continues to threaten mass murder in contravention of numerous international laws and which the Attorney General refuses to allow us to challenge in court; the huge carbon footprint of the military\*the militarised protection that sustain extractivist projects that dispossess indigenous and other peoples adding to the refugee crisis; \*the hostile environment that locks up suffering refugees and asylum seekers caused by British interests; etc etc)

start NOW. This is why we are part of XR and responsible for facilitating the nonviolent blockade by the Ministry of Defence on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Given that time is needed and emergencies in our local environment (in this case we are talking about the UK and London specifically) continue all the time and that we are totally nonviolent we would like to offer the following compromise that I hope you will accept.

As soon as we enter the XR Peace site we will keep the lane from NSY to Horseguards Ave (nearest to the MOD building) free for essential NSY personnel to use and we will be able to move within a couple of minutes when it is necessary. We can also propose that once Westminster Bridge is blocked by another XR site (therefore no traffic coming up the Embankment) we will leave that whole lane free and only block it with a banner and a few people at the Horseguards Ave end for easy access when really necessary.

The aim of the October Rebellion is to stop “business as usual” so we are proposing this compromise which relies on all of us to act in good faith. We hope that this will prove a good compromise and wish you well in the coming days and weeks, love and peace,

XR Peace Police Liaisons:- Angie Zelter, Jane Tallents, and Paul Stephens.