



Shiva Ltd  
Lincoln Tower  
77 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7HA  
Tel 020 7633 9666 Fax 020 7633 9663  
www.shiva.net

Ms Cressida Dick  
Commissioner's Office  
Metropolitan Police  
Victoria Embankment  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2JL

4 September 2020

**Re: Abuse of Coronavirus Regulations**  
**Colombia Wharf, E2 8BD**  
**30 August 2020**

Dear Ms Dick,

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at 3pm a large number of police attended our premises at Columbia Wharf, Laburnum Street, Hackney E2 8BD, entered uninvited and prevented us from carrying on the perfectly lawful activity of solo ballet dancing. The premises located on the Regents Canal. It was a warm summer day and a crowd gathered to watch from the towpath on the other side of the canal. That is, on land not owned by us and over which we have no control.

The police who forced entry, threatened to arrest the "organisers" and made the continuing use of our premises for lawful purposes of our own choice impossible, including by removing the power supply to our loudspeakers (which were incidentally playing music at a modest volume about which there was no complaint). When questioned as to their right of interference on the enjoyment of our private property, the police officers cited, 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions on Holding of Gatherings and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020'. However, when asked to further specify which section of this legislation they relied upon, they were entirely unable to do so.

However, they continued to make threats of arrests and demands that we comply with their dictates and even to forcibly detain people nonetheless.

As a result of this intervention various individuals and organisations including Antepavilion, a registered charity, suffered loss and damage and our rights under Article 8 of the European convention on Human Rights Act were violated. Further, the police officers' refusal to accept that 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions on Holding of Gatherings and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020 Act' does not confer upon them the powers they purported to be exercising. We therefore remain unable to freely put our private property to the uses to which it is committed as we have no reason to believe there will not be a repetition of the unlawful conduct of your officers. We therefore require your immediate assurance that you accept that these officers were acting in excess of their lawful powers and there will be no further attempt by officers under your command to repeat the abuse. Obviously, failure to give this assurance stands to increase and aggravate our losses and the Human Rights Act abuse referred to above.

We look forward to hearing from you with suitable assurances by return.

Yours sincerely



Russell Gray  
Shiva Ltd

CC: Steven Bramely, Director of Legal Services at Metropolitan Police

