



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

Riot (Damages) Act 1886

Members of Leicestershire Police Authority have now considered claims for damages made under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886, as a result of the disturbances in August 2011.

The Act has very clear criteria for making a claim, and the Authority has considered each claim against these measures.

People making claims who did not have an insurance policy at the time were requested to claim via the National Claims Bureau in Glasgow after which Government-appointed loss adjusters then assessed whether claims were valid. Where claims were not assessed as valid the Bureau refuted the claim. Those considered to be possible claims were returned to the Police Authority for consideration.

People or organisations with an insurance policy in place were asked to put their claims to the Police Authority direct or contact their insurance company. These claims were initially assessed by the Police Authority to see if they met the criteria as set out within the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. Claims for damage to vehicles or for consequential losses (such as loss of income/business interruption) were rebutted immediately as the Act does not provide for these claims. Any claims for property damage were assessed as potential claims.

In collaboration with Nottinghamshire Police Authority, Leicestershire Police Authority agreed a process for managing potential claims, whereby the Joint Legal Services Unit for Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire reviewed all potential claims. This included obtaining any information from each Force or evidence from the claimant to confirm whether or not any individual claim could be valid as defined within the Act.

For legitimacy the damage has to have been caused as a result of a "riot" as defined within the Act rather than a public disturbance. Under the Act the responsibility for providing sufficient evidence lies with the claimant.

Having reviewed all the claims and considered all of the available evidence, the Authority will not be making any payments for damages. All claimants will be informed of this decision by the end of December 2011.

Chair of the Authority, Barrie Roper, explained that members had carefully looked at each claim and assessed its validity against the criteria within the Act. "While I'm sure that people will be disappointed, we cannot pay out taxpayers' money without the appropriate evidence that this is justified.

“We have consistently said that we didn’t feel the disturbances in August could be classified as ‘rioting’ and while undoubtedly criminal damage has taken place we have no evidence that this is the result of a riot and the criteria, as stipulated within the Act, has not been met.”

Ends

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, 01283 821012