

Black Lives Matter Demonstrations

“This Council notes the recent Ombudsman report into the policing of Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Belfast and Derry on 6 June 2020. The Council notes in particular the Ombudsman’s conclusions that PSNI actions on the day were disproportionate, discriminatory and showed disregard to people’s human rights in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of protest; further notes the inappropriate use of the Serious Crimes Act (2007) to caution organisers of the events. Accordingly, this Council calls for all penalty notices to be rescinded and prosecutions against Black Lives Matter activists relating to 6th June protests to be abandoned, as the first step toward redress. The Council reiterates its support for the Black Lives Matter movement and its call for a real and robust racial equality strategy to help tackle the systemic problem of institutional racism.”

Proposer: Councillor Matt Collins

Seconded: Councillor Ferguson

To be debated by the Council