Martin Rone-Clarke
Claimants
Second witness statement
Dated 15th October 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION

Claim No: QB-2019-000616

B E T W E E N :

(1) NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
(2) WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Claimants

– and –

(1) THOMAS CORCORAN
(2)-(53) OTHER NAMED DEFENDANTS
(54) PERSONS UNKNOWN FORMING UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

Defendants

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARTIN RONE-CLARKE

I, **Martin Rone-Clarke**, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer at Warwickshire Police, based at Nuneaton Justice Centre, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton CV114JU will say as follows:

1. I am the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer at Warwickshire Police. I joined Warwickshire Police in 1990 and, after initially retiring in 2019, returned to Warwickshire Police to take up my current role. In my role, I act as the liaison between the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (**'GRT'**) community and the Police, and I am especially passionate about encouraging engagement between the Police and the GRT community, and educating Police Officers and helping them understand the GRT community and their needs.

2. I make this statement at the request of the First Claimant to present to the court the data that I hold in relation to unauthorised encampments that have formed in the county of Warwickshire (the **'County'**), as well as other relevant information on encampments that have formed and also the County's transit and stopping provision.

3. The facts and matters set out by me in this witness statement are either know by me directly and are true, or are known by me indirectly and are believed to the best of my knowledge

to be true. In relation to matters falling into the latter category, I have set out the source of my knowledge and belief. This statement has been produced following correspondence with the Claimants' legal representatives.

Unauthorised Encampment Data

4. As part of my role, I maintain a record of the unauthorised encampments that form in the County. I have consulted that record and can see that, since January 2026, there have been 38 unauthorised encampments in the County. These encampments have occurred on both private and local authority land. The breakdown of these encampments as between local authority areas is as follows:

   i. Rugby: 9
   ii. Stratford: 14
   iii. Warwick: 10
   iv. North Warwickshire: 3
   v. Nuneaton and Bedworth: 2

5. I have also consulted both my records and those of Warwickshire Police, and present below the unauthorised encampment data from the past seven years.

Local Authority Area	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Stratford District	17	13	10	11	6	12	14
Warwick District	44	10	11	9	10	14	11
Nuneaton and Bedworth	24	12	6	7	14	1	3
Rugby Borough	35	13	10	8	22	16	16
North Warwickshire	4	7	11	9	5	6	4
TOTAL	**124**	**55**	**48**	**44**	**57**	**49**	**48**

6. The downward trend of unauthorised encampments in the County since 2022 can be attributed to many factors, including the establishment of the Kirby Glebe Farm Site in North Warwickshire (which is a large permanent Traveller site, most – but not all – of which now has planning permission, although there are injunctions in place to prevent expansion and further unauthorised development on the site), the discontinuance of the Kenilworth Horse Fair and, in Nuneaton and Bedworth, the presence of the injunction order prohibiting the formation of unauthorised encampments on 142 selected sites.

7. Rugby Borough, Stratford and Warwick Districts currently experience higher unauthorised encampment numbers than other local authority areas in the County. A proportion of these encampments are associated with a well-known Traveller family based outside of Warwickshire who target commercial premises for criminal enterprise, particularly the theft of high value cables and other materials.

8. Lastly, I also present a breakdown of the number of unauthorised encampments that formed on adopted highways, as recorded in both mine and Warwickshire Police's records.

	2019	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Total encampments (as above)	124	55	48	44	57	49	48
Warwickshire CC/highways	40 (32%)	18 (33%)	5 (10%)	8 (18%)	6 (11%)	15 (31%)	12 (25%)
Total caravans	1017	360	376	385	389	244	248

9. In the last two years, there has been a slight decrease in unauthorised encampments forming on adopted highways maintained by the local highway authority (the Second Claimant). Those encampments are typically 'New Age Travellers', who favour highway verges.

The Unauthorised Encampments in the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth

10. I have consulted my records and provide the following information in relation to the two unauthorised encampments that have occurred in Nuneaton and Bedworth since January 2026.

30th January 2026

11. Heritage Drive, Longford, Bedworth (not an injunction site). The encampment comprised a single caravan on river and canal trust land. The response to the formation of the encampment was therefore managed by the trust. I am not aware of there being any particular issues identified with the encampment.

25th July 2026

12. Bermuda Innovation, St Davids Ct, Nuneaton (not an injunction site). The encampment comprised four caravans and associated vehicles. Entry through the business park car park gate was forced to establish camp. Further entry to a vacant business building was then forced, and cables stripped from the premises before the encampment vacated. There were no evidential links to other groups who have previously targeted buildings in this location with this modus operandi, such that this was a person unknown incident.

Transit and Stopping Provision

13. The County still does not have a transit site. I am also aware that the neighbouring county of Staffordshire also does not have a transit site. West Midlands, which neighbours both the County and Staffordshire, operates two transit sites (in Walsall and Dudley). Of those two sites, one (Walsall) is currently not in use and is unlikely to be a future available provision.

14. I have in the past on occasions used West Midlands transit sites, offering an alternative temporary site provision to families on unauthorised encampments in Warwickshire. The availability of this provision is however now not as easily accessible. It is also not always practical to direct those forming unauthorised encampments in Warwickshire to West

Midlands due to the distance often West Midlands is a considerable distance from the location on which the unauthorised encampment has chosen to form in Warwickshire.

15. In my witness statement dated 25thOctober 2025, I informed the court that I was working with the second claimant Warwickshire County Council on a proposed transit site in Warwick. I am continuing this work. However, I expect that it will still be a few years before that site is operational.

16. The First Claimant does not at this time have a formally adopted negotiated stopping policy. I understand from the First Claimant's legal representatives that, in December 2024 and December 2025, the court was informed that the First Claimant was working with other local authorities in the County to establish a countywide protocol for managing unauthorised encampments, which is separate to a negotiated stopping policy.

17. In 2017, a protocol for managing unauthorised encampments was established in Warwickshire and signed up to by all local authorities, the police and fire service. It has a working group that I chair, and the protocol was amended in 2022 to introduce and reflect the new Police powers that came into power in June 2022 under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (which amended the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, notably by inserting sections ss60C-E).

18. A standardised negotiated stopping protocol for all local authorities in Warwickshire at present remains in its draft format. It has not been formally adopted by the First Claimant or the other local authorities within the County. There remain internal considerations within each district and borough authority before the negotiated stopping protocol can be signed off as a working practice, to sit within the already adopted countywide protocol for managing unauthorised encampments. I would continue to recommend that this process is considered as an effective method for supporting certain families with identified needs and in the effective management of unauthorised encampments in the county.

Engagement with the GRT Community

19. As I have set out above, I am very keen to encourage engagement between Warwickshire Police and the GRT community. However, I believe that the engagement should extend

further and should also exist with other agencies and public bodies, and the settled community. My view is that tensions often arise between the GRT community and others because of a misunderstanding and stereotyping of the GRT community; an entire community should not be judged against the standard of a minority of problematic members. It is my firm view that all forms of racism should be challenged, and racism and prejudice against the GRT community is no different in this regard.

20. In an attempt to forge better engagement with the GRT community, in 2022 I established the Warwickshire GRT engagement group. The group now consists of a variety of service providers across health, education and community engagement. The group has proved productive in engagement and building better community cohesion. For the last four years, the group has put together a project for GRT History month, using artwork created by primary school children across the County to promote GRT History, and displaying this work across Warwickshire Libraries and a finale event at Police HQ. The project has been extremely productive in educating the general public on the reality of the GRT community and subsequently contributing to better community cohesion. Representatives from the Second Claimant's (Warwickshire County Council) Gypsy and Traveller Team have been involved in supporting this project, and other work from the GRT engagement group.

21. I believe that progress is being made in the County, and that engagement is leading towards better relationships between the GRT community and public bodies and key agencies and, over time, the settled community more generally.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

M Rone-Clarke

Martin Rone-Clarke
Date: 15th October 2026