

Protest at Met HQ over police officers' undercover sex with activists

Women were 'unable to give informed consent', say demonstrators who blocked entry to New Scotland Yard



Demonstrators make their point at New Scotland Yard. Photograph: John Stillwell/PA

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Mon 24 Jan 2011 11.43 GMT

Protesters blockaded the main entrance of New Scotland Yard in London this morning in a demonstration against undercover police officers having sex with members of groups they infiltrate.

The protest followed claims that **undercover officers routinely adopted a tactic of "promiscuity" with the blessing of senior commanders.**

Anna Jones, who was among 35 protesters at the headquarters of the Metropolitan police, said: "These women were not able to give informed sexual consent."

Another demonstrator, Leila Deen, asked a young male staff member: "Did you know your agents were using sex with women like us to get information?"

"It is a clear abuse of public office."

The protesters carried pictures of the undercover police officers identified in reports along with placards with slogans such as: "Keep your truncheon in your trousers".

They demanded that other undercover officers should be identified.

"We want a fully independent judged inquiry into the way undercover policing is being conducted in this country," said Kate Blagojevic.

The activists used Indymedia and Facebook to organise the blockade, which started at 8am, "because lots of us have still got to get to work", said Blagojevic.

Police deny that sex between undercover officers and protest group members was officially sanctioned.

Protesters were furious at comments by a former undercover officer, reported in the Observer yesterday, that "everybody knew it was a very promiscuous lifestyle ... You cannot not be promiscuous in this group, otherwise you'll stand out straightaway".

"It's so ridiculous," said Emily Armistead. "Just for the record I've been in the same relationship for six years, I don't have nits and my kitchen is clean."

Isabella Sankey, the policy director at civil rights group Liberty, said: "Police officers all over this country should feel thoroughly ashamed that the sacred

oath to uphold the law has been so perverted in this scandal.

"We hope the service will understand the importance of investigation, accountability and redress so that vital public confidence can be rebuilt."

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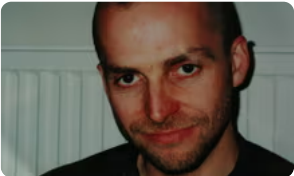
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