

BETWEEN:

Mr DAVID SCOTT

Claimant

-and-

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Defendant

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PARTICULARS OF CLAIM

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**Parties**

1. The Claimant is Mr David Scott of [REDACTED] Sheffield [REDACTED] and is a private citizen.
2. The Defendant is the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and the legal entity for South Yorkshire Police of Carbrook House, Carbrook Hall Rd, Sheffield S9 2EG.

**Causes of Action**

3. The Claimant alleges that the Defendant has violated the following common law and statutory torts, namely:
  - a) common law assault and battery, false imprisonment, trespass to goods, and misfeasance in public office.
  - b) §15 and §29 Equality Act 2010 (EqA).
  - c) Articles 3, 5, 8 and 14 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) as incorporated in Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).

## Facts

4. I am autistic and was diagnosed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. At the time of the incident I was chronically unwell with ME/CFS and too sick to work at all. I believe I have recently fully recovered from ME/CFS. I remain autistic.
5. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at about 19:30, I left my home to go to the supermarket on Herries Road in Sheffield wearing my noise reduction headphones, which I wore at the time to block out sound because I am autistic and because I had ME/CFS.
6. As I was walking up Herries Road to the supermarket, not far from Wordsworth Avenue, a police car pulled up next to me with the two officers in the car wanting to know my name. Following previous poor experiences with the Defendant, I got out my phone and started filming the encounter and the officers then got out of their car. They again demanded to know my name. The officers were wearing body cams.
7. I asked them repeatedly if I was suspected of committing a crime to which they repeatedly responded that I was suspected of being connected to an incident or other evasive responses, which I took to mean that I was not in fact suspected of committing any crime. My understanding is that under §50 of the Police Reform Act 2002, under these circumstances, the officers were not entitled to my name.
8. The officers then stated that not giving my name is suspicious. My understanding from the GOV.UK website on this matter is that not giving your name is not grounds for reasonable suspicion.  
<https://www.gov.uk/police-powers-to-stop-and-search-your-rights/police-powers-stop-question>
9. The officers then proceeded to be aggressive and to intimidate me, and to make me fear an imminent threat of violence. I then got afraid and assertively told them to step back. One officer then grabbed my left arm and the other officer then grabbed my right arm.

10. The officer on the left grabbed my hand with my phone to attempt to get me to stop filming, and the one on the right grabbed my right arm forcing it back until it caused severe pain injuring my arm, and at which point I gave them my name. They then unlawfully searched my bag to look for my driving licence to confirm my name.
11. On obtaining my name and further information from their phone and/or otherwise they then stated that I was not the person they were looking for. I believe the reason they treated me like this is because they perceived me as acting suspiciously *without any evidence*, when all they were in fact perceiving was that I am autistic. This belief is supported by almost 6 years of misconduct towards me by the Defendant and others as documented in my report to the International Criminal Court.
12. The officers then asserted at the end of the encounter that the person they were looking for was a stalker with a machete, yet they never searched my bag properly, even when I later offered to give permission. I believe that this was a dishonest assertion for the purposes of appealing to my emotions to deflect from their misconduct, and to give them justification for their actions after the event. This thus demonstrates their bad faith and also that they had no reasonable reason to suspect me except for them picking up on me being autistic as discussed.
13. Soon afterwards and on the same day, I reported the incident as a crime via 101, but no criminal investigation has ever been carried out. I later spoke to their sergeant who repeated the same dishonest statement as before that they were looking for a stalker with a machete.
14. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 22:15, I raised a complaint with the Complaints and Disciplinary Team of the Defendant via email to which as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 I have had no response.
15. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024, I made a subject access request via email to the Defendant for the body cam and other personal data relating to the incident on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to which as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 I have had no response.

16. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and again on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, I wrote and sent Letters Before Action, which included these events to which as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 I have had no response.
17. On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in a letter, I again sought the body cams and all over personal data related to the events on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to which as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 none of this personal data has been disclosed. This letter also made a Freedom of Information (FoI) request related to the number of investigations into autistic people compared to non-autistic people.
18. In February 2025 due to the Defendant escalating their violence and other misconduct against me, I wrote a report to the ICC alleging that the Defendant is persecuting autistic people, which was filed on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
19. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, I had a response to my Freedom of Information Request that was sent on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which demonstrated that the Defendant had started targeting autistic people from 2021 and this targeting is increasing.

## **Basis of Claim**

### *Common Law Torts*

#### *Common Law Assaults and Battery*

20. The officers acted aggressively for the purposes of intimidating me into giving them my name. The officers also deliberately physically assaulted me by grabbing both my arms for the purposes of stopping me filming and to cause pain and fear for them to again obtain my name through coercion. These had no lawful basis.

#### *False Imprisonment and Trespass to Goods*

21. The officers restrained me and searched my bag without lawful basis.

### *Misfeasance in Public Office*

22. The elements of misfeasance in public office are met as follows:

- a) Police officers are public officers.
- b) The incident related to policing activities, which is a public function.
- c) The police officers targeted me because I am autistic then acted with reckless indifference to the harms that they caused me. They knew their actions were unlawful because of the dishonest statements after the event about the suspect being a stalker with a machete.
- d) The injury and associated psychological distress arose from the assaults.

### Equality Act 2010

#### *Time Limits*

23. §118 EqA requires proceedings to be brought within 6 months or another period if the Court believes it would be just and equitable. These events occurred 18 months ago. I submit that it would be just and equitable to allow this cause of action because:

- a) The events with the Defendant are ongoing as detailed in my ICC report with multiple incidences of victimisation/discrimination pursuant to §13, §15, and §29 EqA in the last 6 months.
- b) The Defendant has never disclosed the body cam or other personal data relating to these events and thus is being obstructive.
- c) The Defendant has never responded to the complaint nor either Letters Before Actions thus is again being obstructive.
- d) I was too unwell to bring any Claim and this was mostly being caused by the Defendant as detailed in my ICC report. It would be perverse to allow the Defendant to psychologically harm potential Claimants to the extent that they are unable to strictly meet limitations.

#### *Disability*

24. §6 EqA defines a disability as a long term mental or physical impairment that substantially affects a person's day-to-day activities. At the time of the events I had ME/CFS and this affects cognition, which when combined with being autistic meant I became "more autistic". This meant I needed to wear noise

reduction headphones because sounds were intolerable and meant my ability to communicate in the way non-autistic people need to not treat me badly degraded. I had ME/CFS from 2011 to 2025 thus was long-term. This is all evidenced by non-autistic people repeatedly treating me badly for no valid reason as detailed in my ICC report. The DWP accepted I was sick and disabled because of this combination from 2017 until present. I was diagnosed as autistic on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. The Defendant also accepts I am disabled because they have repeatedly classified me as a ‘vulnerable adult’ because I am autistic.

*Provision of services, etc*

25. The Defendant carries out public functions and thus must comply with §29 and §15 EqA:

*§29 Provision of services, etc.*

*(6) A person must not, in the exercise of a public function that is not the provision of a service to the public or a section of the public, do anything that constitutes discrimination, harassment or victimisation.*

*§15 Discrimination arising from disability*

*(1) A person (A) discriminates against a disabled person (B) if—*

*(a) A treats B unfavourably because of something arising in consequence of B's disability, and*

*(b) A cannot show that the treatment is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.*

*(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if A shows that A did not know, and could not reasonably have been expected to know, that B had the disability.*

26. The Defendant mistook me being autistic for acting suspiciously. This must be accepted as fact because there was no reason otherwise to suspect I had committed a crime. The officers’ actions were therefore unfavourable treatment due to something arising from my disability and thus in violation of §29 and §15 EqA.

27. The Defendant is invited to demonstrate to the Court either that they did not know I am disabled or that their actions were a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. I submit that such pleadings would lack merit because:

- a) The officers had no evidence that I was suspected of committing a crime or otherwise the person they were looking for and thus there must have been another explanation as to why they felt I was acting suspiciously. At that point they should have considered whether I was autistic or otherwise

disabled. They therefore either knew or could have reasonably found out.

- b) I was wearing noise reduction headphones and the officers should have considered I am autistic from those alone.
- c) The actions of the Defendant were unlawful and thus not a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

## **Human Rights Act**

### *Time Limits*

- 28. §7 HRA requires proceedings to be brought within 1 year or a longer period if the Court believes it would be equitable having regard to all the circumstances. These events occurred 18 months ago. I submit that it would be equitable to allow these causes of action for the reasons already stated in Para 23 above.

### *Article 3 – Torture Inhumane and Degrading Treatment*

- 29. The Defendant subjected me to severe pain and psychological distress for the purposes of obtaining information. I am a disabled adult but particularly vulnerable at the time. The manner of the restraint was also particularly distressing because I am claustrophobic. The effects were long lasting albeit exacerbated by the Defendant's disgraceful behaviour following the events.

### *Article 5 – Deprivation of Liberty*

- 30. The Defendant deprived me of my liberty with no lawful basis. The manner of the restraint was also particularly distressing because I am claustrophobic.

### *Article 8 – Right to Privacy*

- 31. The Defendant searched my property and demanded my name with no lawful basis.

### *Article 14 – Protection from Discrimination*

- 32. These three violations were because I am autistic, which is a disability. Para 24 is repeated.

## **Injury to Feelings and Distress**

- 33. I believe these events triggered PTSD. The reason why is because of events that occurred in the previous months. Around August 2023, I had discovered that medical knowledge is dangerously wrong for autistic people and thus the NHS is unusable for me. This was then followed by the DWP trying to

re-assess me at a critical period in my recovery, a re-assessment that would have seriously harmed me. This was then followed by being assaulted and tortured by the Defendant. The ICC report discusses various parts of the British State playing pass the parcel with me as they tried to directly harm or kill me or drive me to suicide.

34. I wrote in my ICC report:

*“The last 10 years or so has taught me that nobody who works for the British State is to be trusted, and the police are not to be trusted under any circumstances. If I have a choice then I always use my covert audio recording device to provide some level of protection. All the essential services in the UK are unusable for me because I am autistic. I cannot access healthcare, access the DWP, or obtain protection from the police. As far as I am concerned, the greatest risk to my life is from the British State. I avoid main streets or areas where the police might be and tend to go out very late at night or early in the morning. On the last arrest, and the behaviour of the officers, I thought that they were going to kill me. I believe I have PTSD both because of the NHS and the police. I have two main nightmares: (1) somebody is trying to harm me in a crowd, but the crowd are laughing not helping; and (2) having a medical emergency surrounded by people and again they are just laughing not helping. I feel extreme anger and a need for revenge. I want the suspects to feel like I felt and feel. I also feel sad, disappointed, and betrayed. I very much doubt that I can ever have any kind of normal connection or relationship with anyone ever again because of my mistreatment.”*

35. The Defendant compounded these events on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 by rather than investigating properly, apologising, and acknowledging my distress, instead proceeding to carry out a campaign of harassment and victimisation for the purposes of attempting to drive me to suicide. These included malicious prosecutions, malicious investigations, and refusal to ever allow me to be a victim. These events are all documented in my ICC report. During 2024, I have multiple recordings of me drunk and wishing I was dead. I also have multiple emails sometimes copied to the coroner expressing concerns that the Defendant was going to kill me. My uncle also passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and that compounded all of this. When combined with me having ME/CFS and my repeated attempts to recover causing extreme unpleasant psychological symptoms then that amplified the distress. I was therefore very vulnerable throughout 2024. The events were directly related to me being autistic. The Defendant has never apologised and the events occurred in public. I shall be seeking aggravated damages because of the Defendants misconduct following the events. Note that if I did have PTSD then I have fully recovered, although only very recently as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.



## **Quantum**

36. I am claiming compensation under the common law torts, EqA, and HRA. I believe the injury to feelings for the EqA cause of action is in the middle Vento Band. As a litigant-in-person I cannot assess the value of the claim but believe it to be not more than £100,000.

## **Remedies**

37. I am seeking:
- a) Damages for distress, injury to feelings, and just satisfaction.
  - b) A declaration the Defendant breached EqA and this was because I am autistic.
  - c) A declaration the Defendant breached HRA and this was because I am autistic.

## **Costs, Allocation, and Jury**

38. I shall be seeking my legal costs due to the Defendant's failures to comply with Pre Action Protocols. I believe the Claim should be allocated to the County Court and the multi-track. As the Claim includes false imprisonment then I shall be seeking the Claim be tried by jury pursuant to CPR 26.19(1).

I believe that the facts stated in this Particulars of Claim 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:



Dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Mr David Scott

IN THE CCBC

Claim No:

BETWEEN:

Mr DAVID SCOTT

Claimant

-and-

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOUTH  
YORKSHIRE POLICE

Defendant

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PARTICULARS OF CLAIM

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[REDACTED]

Sheffield

[REDACTED]