

Faslane 365

Overall Legal Support Structure

When people are taking action which confronts the state to the point where they risk being arrested it is important that they have good support. An important support role is Legal Support. **You do not need any special legal training to do Legal Support:** just common sense, patience and persistence so that within your Legal Support Team you know everyone's legal situation throughout the action. The F365 Legal Support Working Group will be able to offer advice in advance of your action and we will try to be available on the end of a phone on a daily basis. However, please try to be as self-sufficient as possible by working through this briefing and planning well.

Legal Support breaks down into a number of tasks which basically cover:

- distributing Legal Briefings, and any updates to them, to everyone in the Blockading Group,
- making sure everyone has filled in a Legal Support Registration Form and has a Bust Card (and that the forms get to the 'Trackers'),
- seeing who is being arrested and passing a list on to the 'Trackers',
- finding out where they are being held,
- checking that they are getting released and are picked up from the police station and
- following up any consequences.

This doesn't have to all be done by the same people. Some of this has to be done at the scene of the action, some can be done from somewhere else entirely and most of the follow up is done when the group is home and rested.

Everyone taking part in the action, whether blockading or supporting, needs to read the basic Legal Briefing (check www.faslane365.org/legal for updates). However there are a number of further briefings, covering specific situations or groups, which the Legal Support Team can absorb. We are also producing a further set of information which we are calling the 'Break Glass' briefing which contains things which most groups won't need most of the time but which you can have available for all sorts of unusual situations e.g. contacting foreign embassies.

The different tasks are set out on the following sheets. You might have different people doing these or indeed a rota of people doing some. Some people might take on a number of tasks. The Legal Support Team needs to sort out who is doing what and where it is going to be done and fit that in with other group planning like transport and accommodation.

The Basic Model

The basic model is that:

- Everyone coming to the action has a Bust card with phone numbers for Legal Support and for a solicitor¹ and they have all filled in a Legal Support registration form.
- A number of people are present at each gate acting as **Legal Observers**. They record arrests but also other information such as names of witnesses and how the police are behaving.
- They report arrests to the **Trackers** who have the legal registration forms and are able to keep track of people through the police system. People who have been arrested ask the police to inform the Legal Support Team where they are being held and the police might ask the Team to confirm people's addresses.
- The Trackers find out when the police are going to **release** people and co-ordinate lifts to **pick them up**.
- Trackers confirm that people are released and monitor who is still in custody.
- If people are held overnight to appear in court the Trackers check in with the solicitor and arrange **Court Support**.

After the action there are a number of things we would like your group to feed back to the Faslane 365 Legal Support Working Group. You then need to prepare to follow up with support for people who get prosecuted.

1 See Legal Support Contact List or just tell people to use the Duty Solicitor