

Jamie Rees <Jamie.Rees@avonandsomerset.police.uk>
To: dan@sunrisefestivals.co.uk
FW: Message from member of the public

16 April 2013 08:27

Dan

I don't know where the figure of 30 arrests has come from?

Avon and Somerset police made 2 arrests over the Sunrise festival in 2012.
There were 8 reported thefts and 15 recorded incidents of drugs with no violent crime.

These figures have been passed to Wilts police.

From my involvement last year I can say that the feeling of the festival is normally good, it's well run and the organisers are fully supportive of police advice.

Give me a call if you wish to discuss - 01935 402141

Jamie

SGT 768 REES
Yeovil

-----Original Message-----

From: #SSN (South Somerset East)
Sent: 13 April 2013 08:49
To: Jamie Rees; Dean Hamilton; Sara Stephenson
Subject: FW: Message from member of the public

Sergeants and Sara,

Message from Dan Hurring sent to the SSN mailbox.

He is obviously concerned about the licence for his new venue.

I would reply but do not have access to the figures.

Tim
PCSO 7467

-----Original Message-----

From: dan@sunrisefestivals.co.uk [mailto:dan@sunrisefestivals.co.uk]
Sent: 12 April 2013 15:59
To: #SSN (South Somerset East)
Subject: Message from member of the public

This message has been sent by a member of the public from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website (www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

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Message for Edward Hawkins (Area East)

Message:
Dear Ed,

I hope this finds you well.

Its Dan Hurring here, from the Sunrise Celebrations.

As you may know, Sunrise has recently moved to a new venue inside Wiltshire. We're currently going through the licensing process with the Hearing for the event due in the next two weeks.

We have had long and constructive discussions with Wiltshire Constabulary over the last months, where everything seemed to be in order. However, at a meeting several days ago, held to finalise the last of the arrangements on the license, a new officer was present, one Charlie Dibble.

He came at us from a very different angle, quoting statistics provided from Avon & Somerset, specifically from one Sergeant Rees. He stated

that he was the officer in charge of covert operations at Sunrise in 2012. He also stated that the covert operatives made 30 arrests for drugs and had to abandon the operation due to the level of arrests being too high for them to cope with.

This varies massively from our own understanding of the operation. Our understanding was that the operation was run by Sergeant Sara Stephenson with a single other officer alongside. As I handed over only two wristbands, this does seem to add up. The understanding we had at the time was that there were relatively low incidents, one of which involved our security being called out.

The low level of incidents was confirmed at our Multi-Agency Meeting in September 2012 when the stated figure was around a dozen, ten of which were on the spot cautions. The only substances found in these incidents, at least in all but the one case of arrest, was cannabis. I do not know about the arrest case.

The 30 figure is obviously quite significantly higher. As all Police vehicles were contained in our own production compound, and all police attendance was recorded in our logs, it would seem likely that we would know of 30 arrests.

Finally, it was never mentioned that the operation was abandoned due to overwhelm. The only recorded incidence here was a substantial number of officers being withdrawn from the event site for a larger incident elsewhere.

Ed, do you have any way of locating the correct figures for arrests at Sunrise 2012, specifically from drugs crime and whether these affected the continuance of the operation?
Is there also any way of finding out whether these figures (if different from those stated above) were given to Wiltshire Police?

If so, could you verify these figures with me, as, as I say, they are not what I have on record from our own multi-agency meeting?

The result of these figures has been the painting of the festival as a high-crime, high-drugs, high-risk event which is, frankly, utterly in opposition to the truth as far as we're concerned and the records we have from all previous years.

I'd appreciate a swift response if you are able and apologise if this is a case of error on our part.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Hurring

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Details of person who sent message, if provided.
Name: Daniel Hurring
E-mail address: dan@sunrisefestivals.co.uk Telephone number: 07792 353864 / 01373 466079

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