



FOUR SEASONS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Four Seasons Versus Sam Ricky Gilleard Smith

1. Introduction

In a bold move reaffirming its commitment to both legal recourse and the protection of public nudity as a lawful expression, the Four Seasons organisation published a press release addressing an incident at the 2019 World Naked Bike Ride in Clacton.

The release serves not only as a record of legal proceedings but also as a statement against hate crimes directed at a community that embraces public expressions of freedom and body positivity.

2. Overview of the Incident

During the 2019 World Naked Bike Ride in Clacton, an individual identified as Sam Ricky Gilleard Smith was reported to have used threatening, abusive, and insulting language against the riders. His verbal abuse escalated when he threatened to throw eggs at the participants—a threat he eventually carried out.

This conduct, clearly designed to intimidate and disturb the event participants, prompted a firm legal and policy response from the organizers.

3. Legal Proceedings and Outcome

Charges and Court Hearing:

- **Offenses:** Mr. Smith was charged with two counts under Section 4 of the Public Order Act 1986. The charges specifically pertained to "using threatening, abusive, insulting words and behaviour to cause harassment, alarm, or distress."
- **Court Process:** After an arduous process lasting 18 months, the case was brought to Chelmsford Magistrates Court, with the hearing held on 1 March 2021. At this juncture, overwhelming evidence led Mr. Smith to change his plea to guilty.
- **Sentence:** As a result, he was fined £180 and ordered to pay compensation. This legal outcome not only reinforces that hate crimes will be rigorously prosecuted but also sends a clear message to offenders that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

4. Additional Concerns: Erratic Driving and Alleged Double Standards

Alongside the charges related to public order offenses, there exists compelling video evidence that documents Mr. Smith's erratic and potentially dangerous driving behaviour during the incident.

Despite this evidence, the police opted not to prosecute the driving offenses.

During the trial, the crown prosecutor acknowledged the existence of these incidents but stated that they were unaware of the specifics and that prosecution was unlikely. This admission raises important concerns about potential double standards: there appears to be one strict rule for the World Naked Bike Ride participants and a more lenient approach toward the offender concerning other facets of his behaviour.

5. Community Safeguard Measures and Banning Procedures

Banning from Future Rides:

- **Initial Listing:** In 2019, Mr. Smith was initially added to the World Naked Bike Rides list of bans and restrictions as a Person Of Interest (POI). But later moved to the convicted list. This list is accessible to WNBR groups around the world only, serving as a safeguard against individuals who have previously disrupted events.
- **Updated Status:** With his conviction now confirmed, his entry has been updated to "Banned Convicted." This status ensures that if Mr. Smith attempts to join any future rides, he can be immediately removed by the police at the event organizers' request.
- **Duration of Ban:** His name will remain on this internationally visible list until the end of 2056. Moreover, the list is shared freely with the authorities, reinforcing the organisation's proactive measures to protect its participants and uphold the integrity of their event.

6. Acknowledgment of Legal Support

The press release extends gratitude to Four Seasons Law, the legal arm of the Four Seasons World Naked Bike Rides. Their dedicated work and expertise were integral in bringing the case to conclusion in court. Notably, the ban on publishing photos and videos related to the case was lifted at midnight on the day of the trial, allowing the organisation to share visual evidence that further supports their resolve and transparency in this matter.

7. Conclusion

This case is emblematic of the proactive stance taken by the Four Seasons organisation against hate crimes targeting individuals engaged in legally protected forms of public identity expression. By pursuing legal action—even amidst significant delays—and by implementing long-term security measures such as the global ban list, the organisation underscores its dedication to both justice and community safety.

Furthermore, the situation calls attention to wider concerns regarding inconsistent law enforcement practises, especially when evidence points to additional unsafe behaviour that is not equally prosecuted. These measures and outcomes reaffirm the group's commitment to ensuring that public nudity remains a safe, lawful, and respected activity.

Further Considerations

- **Broader Implications:** The rigorous legal approach taken in this case not only serves as a deterrent to potential offenders but also holds up a mirror to societal and law enforcement practises concerning civil liberties. By challenging any form of discrimination or double standards, the organisation sets a precedent for future activism within other communities facing similar

challenges.

- **Community Empowerment:** The transparent procedure—from documenting misconduct, pursuing legal avenues, to publicly sharing the outcomes—demonstrates how activist groups can effectively combine legal strategy with community protective measures. This model may inspire similar initiatives worldwide where public expression is under threat.
- **Impact of Multimedia Evidence:** The lifting of bans on publishing case-related photos and videos reinforces accountability and could spur discussions on how multimedia documentation might further fortify legal proceedings in hate crime cases and other forms of social activism.

This report not only details the events surrounding the press release but also invites reflection on how legal, social, and activist frameworks can intersect to protect community rights and advocate for equitable treatment under the law.

