Indymedia server seized, agair

KENT POLICE have seized a computer belonging to alternative news network Indymedia from a facility in Manchester - apparently without showing a warrant. Police went to UK Grid, a company that rented rack-space to house Indymedia's computer and others, on 22 January and persuaded staff to hand over the computer, and left a receipt (pictured below).

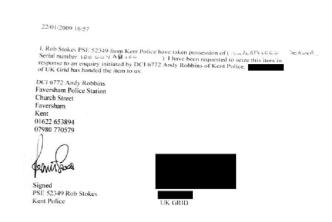
Earlier that day a detective sergeant with Kent police had contacted Indymedia to request the removal of personal information about Neil Butterfield, a judge in a trial of "animal rights" activists. Indymedia had already removed the information they were aware of, in line with their privacy policy, and immediately removed an attempt to re-post it. They tell the Freelance "We had no time to respond to the police before the server seizure."

Indymedia understand that Kent police were keen to obtain the "IP address" of the computer or computers from which the personal information was sent as a reader response to a story on the Indymedia "newswire". It is Indymedia's policy not to record such information about posters.

On 10 February the Freelance asked Kent police a series of questions, including: Was a warrant issued? If so, under what legislation? If so, was the warrant shown? ... If no warrant was shown, under what power was the property and the material thereon - including, we understand, "special procedure material" (journalistic material protected under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act) - taken?

The force responded that they could not answer any questions about the case, having on 10 February arrested and bailed a person. The Freelance understands that this person is a system administrator at UK Grid, not connected with Indymedia, other than as an employee

www.theregister.co.uk reports that computers were seized from his home as well



We'll just take this and leave a receipt, thanks...

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Legal help for policing injuries

VIDEOGRAPHER and London Freelance Branch member Jason Parkinson was injured following police action at a Greek Embassy demo in December. Guy Smallman reported to the January Branch meeting that Jason had taken legal advice and was back at work after seeing his doctor, and that the union was becoming much better at following up on more frequent incidents of heavy policing of journalists, such as Guy's own recent encounter with a "canine Sussex Police officer.'

"Problems like this are on the increase, the Union is dedicating more time to sorting this out, getting redress," says Guy. www.londonfreelance.org/fl /070 l law.html on how to get legal assistance via the NUI.

Scott Trust/Guardian Media Group bursaries

Eight bursaries, for £5000 worth of postgraduate journalism training each, are available from the Scott Trust (Guardian Media Group). These include work experience with GMG media outlets. Graduates from "diverse social and or/ethnic backgrounds" are particularly encouraged to apply, by 2 March. www.gmgplc.co.uk for details.

Student snubbed in Square

STUDENTS FROM a Kingston University film-making course were prevented by police from filming an interview with Barbara Tucker at the protest camp in Parliament Square, where she lives. As the four overseas students set up the cameras they'd borrowed from the university on November II last year, the police told them they would need to apply for a license to film in the square. Police then asked the students to leave the square, giving no explanation and quoting no legislation empowering them to do so.

The police did not prevent another Parliament Square protest camp resident, Brian Haw, from filming the altercation.

A High Court judgment gives Brian the right to hold his protest in Parliament Square with up to 20 people, but it does not confer any additional rights on filming there, other than the right we all have to film in a public place. An argument about whether the police had authority to prevent the students filming ended in Barbara Tucker being arrested.

Written permission may need to be obtained from the Greater London Authority to "take photographs or any other recordings of visual image" but only if it is "for the purpose of or in connection with a business, trade, profession or employment". (This probably refers to photographing for, say, calendars, or shooting feature films, and not to news coverage.) The students insisted they

were not filming for any commercial purpose, but police still told them they needed a licence. The students returned later that day with a faxed letter from Kingston University, stat-

ing that they were filming for their course and not for commercial purposes. There they were told by a police- To Whom it may concern still couldn't film without a licence and couldn't film their permission.

ment, police are

If you require any further information please do not health to contact me. no longer arresting demonstators (or journalists Yours faithfully filming or photographing them) Course Director MA film making Parliament Square under

SOCPA, which now seems to be (see the report www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0804 subm.html). A Crown Prosecution Service summary of a case last June said that "owing to changes in SOCPA legislation the unauthorised demonstration offences cannot be proceeded with." However, we've recent reports panda-costumed demonstrators being ordered to leave the square by policing quoting SOCPA at them.

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man that they ram writing to confirm that the following students;

and couldn't film—are registered on the MA film making programme at people without Kingston University. They are producing a documentary film about London as part of their course work. The work is not recommercial distribution.

For the moditing will be strictly supervised. They are covered by
the University's public liability insurance.



Kingston University's letter explaining that their students were filming in Parliament Square as part of their

Photo © Rikki Blue www.socpa-movie .blogspot.com