



**David Draffan**

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Date: 6 August 2024

Dear City Centre Business Owner

I wanted to write to you as a valued stakeholder in light of the disturbances that took place last night Monday 5 August 2024.

We were all so shocked and upset by the events that unfolded last night right here in our City Centre. While most protestors were peaceful, we were all appalled by a small number of individuals who engaged in aggressive, violent and abusive behaviour.

Throughout the day yesterday and into the evening City partners came together to manage the unfolding situation. The Police response was brilliant, and the City Council clean up started at 4am - We know that many of you were incredibly anxious and wondering what you were coming into this morning

Now we have had 24 hours to reflect, we know that many people will continue to feel anxious, upset and worried. This type of behaviour is not something we have seen in the city in recent times. Last night was NOT Plymouth. We are a City that proudly celebrates and embraces the diversity of all our communities.

Together with the police and other partners, Plymouth City Council is now looking to fully understand the impact that the protests have had on the business community within the city centre. We want to hear your views and the impact it has had on your business, your property, your staff and yourself.

- If you believe a crime has been committed you should report it directly to the police. You can [report online](#) or call 101.
- If you'd like to provide wider evidence to the council on the impact to you and your business please email to [Invest@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Invest@plymouth.gov.uk)
- And If you see any racist graffiti report it here [Report graffiti | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)–

OFFICIAL

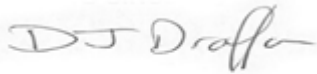
If your building has suffered any damage, it is vital that you send pictures as evidence to the police and the Council to help them build a strong case for when the perpetrators appear in court

We really do hope this is an isolated incident but please rest assured that we are working closely with regional and national partners to deal swiftly and effectively with any future incidents. We continue to work in and across all our communities to support those who felt threatened or isolated by last nights events.

This protest does not define who we are and by continuing to work together as a City Centre community, as we have done so many times before, we will quickly recover.

Please do feel able to contact me personally if you want to talk about any aspect of this letter and thankyou for being a brilliant city centre business. You have our full and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DJ Draffan', is positioned above the typed name and title.

**David Draffan**  
**Service Director for Economic Development**  
**On behalf of Plymouth City Council**