



QB-2022-001259
QB-2022-001420
QB-2022-001241

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION
MR JUSTICE FORDHAM
14th February 2024



BETWEEN

SHELL INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED

Claimant (QB-2022-001259)

SHELL U.K. OIL PRODUCTS LIMITED

Claimant (QB-2022-001420)

SHELL U.K. LIMITED

Claimant (QB-2022-001241)

- and -

PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING OR REMAINING IN OR ON THE BUILDING KNOWN AS SHELL CENTRE TOWER, BELVEDERE ROAD, LONDON ("SHELL CENTRE TOWER") WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CLAIMANT, OR DAMAGING THE BUILDING OR DAMAGING OR BLOCKING THE ENTRANCES TO THE SAID BUILDING
Defendant (QB-2022-001259)

PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING OR REMAINING AT THE CLAIMANT'S SITE KNOWN AS SHELL HAVEN, STANFORD-LE-HOPE (AND AS FURTHER DEFINED IN THE PARTICULARS OF CLAIM) WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CLAIMANT, OR BLOCKING THE ENTRANCES TO THAT SITE
Defendant (QB-2022-001241)

PERSONS UNKNOWN DAMAGING, AND/OR BLOCKING THE USE OF OR ACCESS TO ANY SHELL PETROL STATION IN ENGLAND AND WALES, OR TO ANY EQUIPMENT OR INFRASTRUCTURE UPON IT, BY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED AGREEMENT WITH OTHERS, IN CONNECTION WITH PROTEST CAMPAIGNS WITH THE INTENTION OF DISRUPTING THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF FUEL TO OR FROM THE SAID STATION
Defendant (QB-2022-001420)

UPON the Claimants' Application dated 12 February 2024 for (a) permission to add certain individuals as Defendants to claim QB-2022-001420 and (b) directions as to service; and (c) directions for final hearings for each of the claims and for the claims to continue to be managed together.

AND UPON considering the covering letter (12 February 2024), witness statement of Alison Judith Oldfield (12 February 2024) and accompanying documents.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application is adjourned into open court with a time estimate of 2 hours.



Observations.

- (1) The Court is being invited (see covering letter): (a) on the papers, to make what are said to be “uncontroversial” case-management directions and joinder of defendants as said to be “justified” by the witness statement; or (b) to direct a 2 hour hearing. I am not prepared to do (a); I have done (b).
- (2) The circumstances as I have understood them include these. There has, for a long time, been a 12.5.24 backstop and a 28.2.24 applications deadline. Disclosure orders were made back in the first part of 2023. Letters were ultimately written to potential defendants in the autumn of 2023. The N244 now comes, in mid-February 2024. It expressly records that the proposed named defendants “should be served with this application”. And yet it asks the Court to make the Order sought by the application, on the papers, without more ado. To illustrate the position, one proposed defendant said by email (23.11.23) that she did not consent to joinder. The fact that individuals were told that “Shell reserves the right to apply to join you to proceedings without any further reference to you”, does not mean the Court should accede to joinder, on the papers, without any further notification. It is not just joinder; but joinder accompanied by a heavily-expedited timetable. This application, in my judgment, needs a proper ventilation; and I decline to do any of what is sought on the papers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J Fordham'.

Fordham J

DATED 14th February 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COURT