

**CLAIM NO: QB-2022-001259**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**

**BETWEEN:-**

**SHELL INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED**

**Claimant**

**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**

**Defendants**

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**STATEMENT OF ANDREW DANIEL SMITH**

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I, **Andrew Daniel Smith** of 3b Rodwell Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8RD, **WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-**

1. I make this statement in support of my application to vary the injunction made by Mr Justice Sweeting in the above referenced claim.
2. The statements I make are from my own knowledge or belief unless otherwise stated. If not from my own knowledge I will identify the source.
3. I am a protestor associated with Extinction Rebellion. I confirm that I fall within the definition of persons unknown as I have entered the Shell Centre Tower without the consent of the Claimant for the purposes of protesting.

***The importance of the climate emergency***

4. Climate breakdown is the single most important crisis facing our planet and human existence. It threatens the lives of millions of people (including my four nieces who have

no say over the world they are going to inherit), and the livelihood of many millions more.

5. It is already contributing to mass extinctions across the planet, severe weather and inhabitable environments. The impacts of climate breakdown are being felt, predominantly, in the Global South with black, indigenous, and people of colour being disproportionately affected. I do not see that I have any option but to participate in direct action protests because our Government is not doing enough to avert this catastrophe, and the large, wealthy corporations it supports are knowingly contributing to it on a vast scale daily.
6. Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed along with other activists as a direct result of taking action against Shell in response to the environmental impact of oil extraction in the Niger delta. I have white male privilege that allows me to take direct action at the heart of the problem in this country without risk to my own life. Shell is still committed to exploring for new sources of oil and gas and does not have any plans to reduce the overall amount of oil and gas it produces by 2030, the date by which IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) scenarios say emissions from oil, gas, and coal will need to have substantially reduced. I firmly believe I am taking direct action and using my right to protest to prevent a bigger crime from happening.

### ***The importance of the Shell Centre Tower***

7. The Shell Centre Tower is an essential site of protest for our movement. It is the headquarters of a major oil company, which is continuing to make millions extracting fossil fuels across the world and in so doing is knowingly causing or creating carbon emissions which are fuelling the climate crisis.
8. At a recent shareholder meeting Shell shareholders voted to relocate its headquarters to London from The Netherlands, according to Bloomberg, "*a country with which relationships have become increasingly strained due to environmental concerns*". The move sees the firm avoid a type of tax payable on dividends in the Netherlands whilst increasing flexibility in regards to raising capital and acquisition efforts. Shell claims it is part of the solution, "*using lower-carbon energy products to reduce GHG emissions*", but the company's plans include growing its fossil gas business by 20% in the coming years until it occupies over half of Shell's energy business by 2030.

9. Our intention is to make the public aware of Shell's ecocidal practices and that the fossil fuel industry has got to stop if we are to have any chance of survival as a species. Extinction Rebellion and many other protest groups see the Shell Centre Tower as a key site from which to make that point.

***The location of the Shell Centre Tower protests***

10. The Shell Centre Tower protests extended to the street outside and were not confined to the building. Our methods are generally confined to gathering outside the building, holding banners and signs and chanting slogans, to make the reason for our protest clear. Our protests do cause some disruption, but we do allow traffic to pass on the road, and we do not prevent pedestrians from passing through the group, in fact we welcome interaction with the public and make the most of outreach opportunities.
11. At the recent protests we were keen to engage with Shell staff members and bring our protest directly to those who are part of the destructive business practice. We did not block entrances or exits and allowed space for staff members to pass, it was Shell's decision to lock down the building as a result of our protest.
12. Our presence at Shell is a tiny reality check on the multi-million pound "Greenwash" campaign that the corporation uses to skew public opinion of its operations.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

SIGNED



**ANDREW DANIEL SMITH**

DATED

.....28th April 2022.....