

MENU



NEWS / EDWARD COLSTON

SHOULD BRISTOL24/7 HAVE PUBLISHED POLICE-ISSUED PHOTOS OF COLSTON PROTESTERS?

By **MARTIN BOOTH**, Monday Jun 22, 2020

Many Bristol24/7 readers have criticised us for [publishing photos of 15 people who police want to speak](#) to as they investigate the toppling of Edward Colston's statue.

MENU

A criminal investigation is now underway with police wanting to speak to 18 people, and releasing photos of 15 of these to the media.

Bristol24/7 readers have been vocal in their criticism for us in reporting this latest development in a news story that has made headlines across the world.

**SIGN UP TO OUR DAILY EMAIL TO RECEIVE THE LATEST NEWS
FROM ACROSS BRISTOL EVERY MORNING**

MENU

“DON'T BE A DIRTY GRASS. Take this down, should be ashamed of yourselves,” tweeted another reader.

The police did not receive any complaints from Bristol City Council, the owners of the statue, that a crime had been committed, instead asking the council to provide an “evidential statement” on what damage was caused to it.

“I cannot condone criminal damage,” Bristol mayor Marvin Rees *told the New York Times* in the days after the statue was pulled off its plinth and thrown into the docks.

“But also, as the descendant of Jamaicans who were enslaved at some point, and this man was a slaver, I won't deny that the statue was an affront to me.”

Colston's statue is pushed into Bristol's docks



Just over two weeks after the day the statue was toppled amid jubilant scenes, police published 15 photos of people they would like to speak to.

Detective superintendent Liz Hughes said that because a crime has been reported, they are “duty-bound to investigate this without fear or favour”.

MENU

investigation and have sought early investigative advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).”

It is now up to the CPS to decide what should happen next.

If there is a criminal trial, a representative from the city council might have to stand up in court to say that criminal damage has occurred against the Grade II-listed statue, which had stood in the city centre for 125 years.

Lawyers from across the UK have already promised to represent free of charge anybody brought to trial for damaging the statue.

.....

Read more: [Who actually owns Edward Colston’s statue?](#)

.....

“I’m really disappointed in Bristol24/7. Why is this being posted?” said Cath Greig on Twitter.

“It is not in the public interest to prosecute,” tweeted @Debbiesplace65.

On Facebook, Liv Kelly said that the people who tore down the statue “did an incredible thing. They should only be wanted to be celebrated!”

Grant Wells-Cockburn added: “No sympathy for the police. They could have stopped it at the time, but chose not to, now long after the event they want the public to do what they should have done. No way.”

Bristol24/7 Editor Martin Booth said: “I think that the people who pulled down the statue of Edward Colston should have their names commemorated on a plaque next to where it is eventually put on display.

“They undertook a heroic act of civic duty after decades of inaction by successive political administrations who did nothing to remove this statue of a notorious slave trader from the

MENU

“We took the decision to publish this police appeal because it is our job as a news organisation to tell the truth, not hide it from our readers.

“I hope that if these people ever do face a criminal trial, a jury of their fellow Bristolians will be able to see the historic justifications of their actions.”

Main photo by Harry Pugsley

Read more: [Restoring Colston’s statue – graffiti, bike tyre and all](#)

BECOME A MEMBER OF BRISTOL24/7

SAVE



SHARE



TAGS: [Edward Colston](#), [avon and somerset police](#), [police](#)

Sign up to our newsletter for more articles like this

SIGN UP FOR DAILY NEWSLETTER

Enter email address

SIGN UP

COMMENTS

Existing members

SIGN IN TO COMMENT

Want to have your say?

MENU

MOST READ

- 1 [10 fresh water swimming spots near or in Bristol](#)
- 2 [New documentary explores global impact of the toppling of the Colston statue](#)
- 3 [15 photos of Bristol's retailers during lockdown](#)
- 4 [Bravas gets ready to reopen as a deli and tapas takeaway](#)
- 5 [New photo festival coming to Bristol](#)

[VIEW TOP 20](#)

BRISTOL24/7 MEMBERSHIP IS HERE

Bristol24/7 is an independent media outlet and community interest company. We're not owned by a large corporation, and your contribution will help keep it this way. It will also help us grow and improve our content. By supporting us you will:

MENU

Support local independent journalism

Enjoy exclusive perks

Join our growing community for just £5 per month or £45 for a year.

[JOIN NOW](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

[NEWS / EDWARD COLSTON](#)

[NEWS / EDWARD COLSTON](#)

[NEWS / STREET ART](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[ADVERTISE ON B24/7](#)

[SUPPORT BRISTOL24/7](#)

[SIGN UP FOR DAILY NEWSLETTER](#)

MENU

Bristol24/7 CIC. © Copyright 2020. Company no: 08904329. Unit 2.4 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bath Road, Bristol,
BS4 3EH

Website : Rakkit