Dear Diary,

You wouldn’t believe the day I have just had! It was even worse than I ever imagined!

Before the sun was up, I was out of bed and dressed in my oldest, warmest work clothes. I checked the weather forecast – I was relieved to see that at least it wasn’t going to rain. Next, I tried to eat a couple of slices of toast but I didn’t feel much like breakfast. I was too nervous. I had never had to start doing my job in the dark before and I felt very uneasy about the day ahead. It felt as if my boss was ashamed of what we were going to do, as if he was trying to hide something. But we were only going to do our normal job, after all. Wasn’t it just like any normal day? I told myself that I was being silly.

After breakfast, I got into the car and drove over to the depot, where we picked up all our tools and equipment. My colleagues all seemed quieter than usual. We were all working very fast to load everything up; it was as if we wanted to get the job over with as soon as possible.

Once the vans were packed, we drove off. Soon, we arrived at the street where we were going to cut down the trees. Why were the police there? And why were there cars parked all along the street?

“We can’t start felling these trees while the cars are there! It’s not safe!” I said to the foreman. “Why hasn’t anybody moved their car?”

The foreman asked the police officers to start knocking on people’s doors to ask them to get up and park their cars somewhere else. I felt awful! It was 5am and all the residents had been asleep. I could see when they answered their doors that lots of the people were elderly and they felt very scared and confused. Some of the lads started getting their chainsaws warmed up, and the noise sounded loud and terrifying – even though you would think I would be used to it by now!

In a flash, it seemed like every door in the street was open. People were opening their

windows too. Everyone was shouting at us to go away. Two old ladies came out and stood in front of the trees to try to protect them. A police officer took them away in a car and I heard later on that they had been arrested!

I’m so unhappy. Normally people like to see us. We are being helpful by getting rid of trees that are damaged or diseased. Nobody on that street wanted their trees cut down. What we did today feels wrong to me – I feel more guilty than the people who were arrested. I just hope tomorrow is a better day.

Grammatical and punctuation features included in this piece of writing:

* Uses inverted commas to show direct speech
* Organises events into paragraphs
* Uses the past tense
* Uses first person pronouns
* Uses time connectives to link events

Writing features:

* Describes the writer’s point of view, facts and feelings
* Includes opinions as well as facts
* Is written in an informal style