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For the attention of the Honourable Mr Justice Sir Michael Tugendhat
Court 37 RJW v Guardian, 2pm 13 October

The Honourable Mr Justice Sir Michael Tugendhat
The Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London
WC2A 2LL

13 October 2009

Dear Sir Michael

We are writing to associate ourselves with the Guardian's challenge to the injunction today at the High Court and would be grateful if you would consider this letter as part of the evidence submitted to the court.

As the UK's leading organization working for the promotion and protection of free speech, with a website and publication where we report on such matters in a timely fashion, we are gravely concerned at the draconian and wide-sweeping nature of the injunction preventing us (as well as the Guardian) from reporting not only on a matter of enormous public interest but also on proceedings in parliament.

We believe that the granting of the injunction in the first place poses a serious threat to the freedom of the press in the UK. Not only are we, according to the terms of the injunction, unable to identify the party who served it, we are not even allowed to mention its existence. As you will be aware, the matter has now been raised in a written question by Paul Farrelly MP and such are the terms of the injunction that the media cannot even report this. For the press to be prevented from reporting parliamentary proceedings undermines a principle of free speech that citizens of this country have enjoyed for more than 300 years.

The details of the question are widely available on the parliamentary website, from where members of the foreign press and the blogosphere have picked up the information and are currently widely discussing the matter beyond our shores; while we here, in the UK, are unable to discuss the subject by virtue of this injunction. This raises a matter of enormous constitutional and public importance as to our ability to report parliament. We believe that it is our right to receive and impart information as to the activities of this country's elected representatives, all the more so when this information is widely available across the planet.

We are also concerned that our courts are showing an increasing inclination towards secrecy, granting anonymity in cases where the public has a right to know and the press has a right to report. We urge you to lift the original injunction and allow the Guardian to report on parliamentary proceedings in the interests of free speech and open justice.

Yours sincerely



John Kampfner, Chief Executive



Jo Glanville, Editor

Chief Executive: John Kampfner. Editor: Jo Glanville.

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