

LIBERTY

King's Bench Division
The Royal Courts of Justice
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LAWYERS

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The solicitors employed by Liberty are individually authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

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Date: 26 February 2025
Our ref: KW/340

- URGENT -

Dear Judge

Re: KB-2025-000497; THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS, AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE v PERSONS UNKNOWN

1. I write on behalf of Liberty, further to the above matter which we understand is listed for hearing before the Court on 27 February 2025. Liberty first became aware of these proceedings on 25 February 2025. We hope that this letter will be of assistance to the Court.
2. The Claimant's application for injunctive relief raises questions of importance regarding the use of injunctions against persons unknown in the context of protest on university campuses. Liberty writes to express its interest and concern in the matters raised in the application, and to express support for the application made by the European Legal Support Centre ("ELSC") for the proceedings to be adjourned.
3. Liberty was formed in 1934 to protect the right to peaceful protest and frequently appears before the Court in protest cases as both claimant and intervener. Recently, Liberty has intervened in support of protest rights in proceedings concerning persons unknown injunctions, including in *Wolverhampton CC v London Gypsies and Travellers* [2024] 2 WLR 45 ("*Wolverhampton*") and *MBR Acres Limited v John Curtin and Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 331 (KB).
4. In Liberty's view, the breadth of the injunction sought by the Claimant raises issues of significant public interest. The scope of the injunction goes beyond any comparable persons unknown injunction in the protest context that we are aware of, including in respect of the prohibited conduct, the categories of identified defendants, and the temporal scope of the injunction. We are concerned that the proposed injunction appears to capture any kind of protest activity at all within the two specified sites, based only on the subject matter of the protest.
5. Freedom of expression and protest on campus for staff and students merits serious consideration by the Court, and this matter would benefit from full ventilation of the

issues at stake. The application was first published on the Claimant's website on 19 February 2025 and listed urgently for 27 February 2025 at the request of the Claimant. In circumstances where a defendant has not been identified by the Claimant, seven days is not an adequate period of time to allow any affected party to identify themselves, obtain legal advice on the merits of defending the application, and prepare their case.

6. We understand that the ELSC is preparing to apply to be joined to the proceedings as an intervener in order to make arguments in support of persons unknown who would be bound by the injunction. Unless and until that application is granted, there is no party in a position to adequately defend this application. If the ELSC are granted permission to intervene, they will require time to prepare their submissions in order to participate fully in the proceedings. Accordingly, an adjournment is necessary in order to ensure that any defendants are able to identify themselves, and/or to allow any parties with a substantial interest in the proceedings to be joined.
7. Further, in contrast to other applications for injunctive relief sought in similar contexts, it does not appear that there is any extant protest activity that the Claimant seeks to restrain through this application. Absent any immediate risk to the Claimant, we respectfully ask that the Court grant an adjournment to allow any defendants and/or other parties to participate in these important proceedings.

Should there be any further way in which Liberty can assist the Court, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A copy of this letter has been provided to the Claimant.

Yours faithfully



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