

IN THE MATTER OF THE JUSTICE AND SECURITY BILL

PETITION TO THE RT. HON. KENNETH CLARKE QC MP

LIBERTY
LIBERTY HOUSE
26-30 STRUTTON GROUND
LONDON
SW1P 2HR

28 FEBRUARY 2013

LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

FOR THEIR EYES ONLY

Dear Minister,

I strongly oppose the Government's plan in the Justice and Security Bill to extend the controversial Closed Material Procedures (CMP) to ordinary civil law cases and oust the court's jurisdiction to hear certain Norwich Pharmacal applications for disclosure.

As a lawyer, I believe the changes set out in the Justice and Security Bill are contrary to the Rule of Law and should not be brought into force. The plans for secret courts erode core principles of our civil justice system including the right to a fair trial, equality of arms and open justice. They will fatally undermine the court room as an independent and objective forum in which allegations of wrongdoing can be fairly tested and where the Government can be transparently held to account.

I urge you to abandon these dangerous and unnecessary plans.

Robin Allen QC

Alex Bailin QC

David Blunt QC

Paul Bogan QC

Paul Bowen QC

Joel Donovan QC

Brendan Finucane QC

Michael Fordham QC

David Friedman QC

Mark George QC

Stephen Grosz QC

John Hendy QC

Javan Herberg QC

Richard Hermer QC

Patricia Hitchcock QC

Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC
Helena Kennedy QC
Stephen Kenny QC
Judy Khan QC
Ian Macdonald QC
Michael Mansfield QC
Jeremy Morgan QC
Helen Mountfield QC
Gordon Nardell QC
Ali Naseem Bajwa QC
Andrew Neish QC
Tim Otty QC
Ian Peddie QC
Tony Peto QC
Karen Quinlivan QC
Dinah Rose QC
Philippe Sands QC
Timothy Scott QC
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Hugh Southey QC
Jemima Stratford QC
Anthony Temple QC
Nigel Tozzi QC
Nicholas Vineall QC
Pete Weatherby QC
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Elkan Abrahamson
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