



Ali Jeremy
Director of Communications, Marketing and Engagement
The Royal Parks
The Old Police House, Hyde Park
London
W2 2UH

CC: Guto Harri, Director of Communications, 10 Downing St

31 August 2022

Dear Ms Jeremy,

We are writing on behalf of professional photographers and journalists spanning the entire breadth of the UK news media industry including staff photographers working for prominent national and local titles, news and photographic agencies, and freelancers.

We are concerned about a clause in the Royal Parks news permits which prevents filming and photography at the back of No 10 Downing Street from Horse Guards Road or Horse Guards Parade.

This clause, which has recently been further tightened through updated wording, unnecessarily restricts the legitimate activities of photographers seeking to report in the public interest on hugely significant events happening right at the seat of power in this country. We believe this amounts to an unacceptable attack on press freedom.

In our society, it cannot be right for photographers and journalists, who act as the eyes and ears of the public, to be prevented from taking photographs in a location of such democratic significance, while members of the public are free to do so.

We have raised this issue with your offices on several occasions but as yet cannot see any reasonable justification for why photography and filming are restricted at the rear of Downing Street. We ask therefore that the permits are updated with the relevant clause removed in its entirety. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss these issues if it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Meredith, News Media Association CEO

Dominic Cooper, Chartered Institute of Journalists CEO

Matthew Myatt, British Association of Journalists General Secretary

Deborah Bonetti, Director, The Foreign Press Association in London

Paul Ellis, Chair, The British Press Photographers' Association