

Dear Ugbana Oyet (Serjeant at Arms) and The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP (Commons Speaker),

CC: House of Commons Press Office and Lisa Nandy MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

We, the undersigned, are journalists, campaigners, politicians and other industry professionals who believe in the importance of media access to Westminster.

In the interests of press freedom, we write to express our deep concern over the recent decision by parliamentary authorities to reject Declassified UK's application for a parliamentary press pass. The details of the case are reported here:

<https://www.declassifieduk.org/parliament-blocks-declassified-citing-our-gaz-a-standpoint/>

When the application was rejected, authorities initially blamed space and capacity within the parliamentary estate. However, documents released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal there is no limit to the number of press passes that can be issued – and that capacity was not even discussed as a consideration.

Instead, officials cited the “particular standpoint” of Declassified’s “in-depth investigations” into foreign policy. They also flagged a recent article that raised concerns about pro-Israel bias in Westminster.

Other reasons for rejecting the application were clearly bogus, including a claim that Declassified’s focus on UK foreign policy does not count as “politics”.

This is a flagrant and partisan attempt to suppress investigative journalism.

Whatever our personal political views may be, we are united in believing that a diverse and critical media is vital for UK democracy and accountability.

As such, we call on parliamentary authorities to urgently review this decision and issue Declassified with a press pass. We also urge parliamentary authorities to review the way that future applications are processed, to avoid any partisan interference with future applications.

Yours sincerely,

- ☐ Mark Curtis, co-director, Declassified UK
- ☐ Laura Pidcock, co-director, Declassified UK
- ☐ John McDonnell MP (Labour), former shadow chancellor
- ☐ Clive Lewis MP (Labour)
- ☐ Richard Burgon MP (Labour)
- ☐ Lord Prem Sikka (Labour)
- ☐ Lord John Hendy KC (Labour)
- ☐ Liz Saville Roberts MP (leader, Plaid Cymru)
- ☐ Chris Law MP (SNP)
- ☐ Brendan O'Hara MP (SNP)
- ☐ Jeremy Corbyn MP (Independent Alliance), former Labour Party leader
- ☐ Zarah Sultana MP (Independent Alliance)
- ☐ Shockat Adam MP (Independent Alliance)
- ☐ Ayoub Khan MP (Independent Alliance)
- ☐ Adnan Hussain MP (Independent Alliance)
- ☐ Iqbal Mohamed MP (Independent Alliance)
- ☐ Brian Leishman MP (Independent)
- ☐ Jodie Ginsberg, chief executive, Committee to Protect Journalists
- ☐ Fiona O'Brien, UK director, Reporters Without Borders
- ☐ Franz Wild, editor in chief and CEO, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism
- ☐ Richard Sambrook, chair, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism
- ☐ Peter Osborne, journalist
- ☐ Owen Jones, journalist
- ☐ Ash Sarkar, contributing editor at Nvara Media
- ☐ Sangita Myska, Journalist and Broadcaster (freelance)
- ☐ Yanis Varoufakis, author, academic economist and politician
- ☐ Fatima Manji, journalist and broadcaster

- ☐ James Harkin, director, Centre For Investigative Journalism
- ☐ Rob Evans, reporter, The Guardian
- ☐ Laura Webster, editor, The National
- ☐ Mona Chalabi, journalist
- ☐ Nish Kumar, comedian and podcaster
- ☐ Josie Long, comedian and campaigner
- ☐ Alexei Sayle, comedian and campaigner
- ☐ Fern Brady, comedian
- ☐ David Hearst, co-founder and editor-in-chief, Middle East Eye
- ☐ Ben de Pear, founder and executive producer, Basement Films
- ☐ Jo Maugham, director of Good Law Project
- ☐ Michael Mansfield KC, civil rights barrister
- ☐ Nathan Sparkes, CEO, Hacked Off
- ☐ Silkie Carlo, director, Big Brother Watch
- ☐ Tom Brake, director, Unlock Democracy
- ☐ Helena Horton, journalist, The Guardian
- ☐ Josiah Mortimer, chief reporter, Byline Times
- ☐ Anthony Barnett, honorary president, openDemocracy
- ☐ Indra Warnes, news editor, openDemocracy
- ☐ Dr Matt Walsh, head of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University
- ☐ Philippa Whitford, trustee of Medical Aid for Palestinians and former MP
- ☐ Hamza Yusuf, journalist
- ☐ Meirion Jones, investigative journalist
- ☐ Solomon Hughes, contributor, Private Eye
- ☐ Andrew Feinstein, executive director, Shadow World Investigations
- ☐ Jenna Corderoy, reporter, Democracy For Sale
- ☐ Amy Hall, co-editor, New Internationalist
- ☐ Nick Dowson, co-editor, New Internationalist
- ☐ Jake Hurfurt, head of research and investigations, Big Brother Watch
- ☐ Richard Norton-Taylor, journalist
- ☐ Ian Cobain, journalist
- ☐ Ruby Lott-Lavigna, investigative journalist, Global Witness
- ☐ Kat Hayes, executive producer, AJ+
- ☐ Jon Lawrence, supervising executive producer, AJ+

- ☐ Dania Akkad, journalist, Middle East Eye
- ☐ Ramzy Alwakeel, deputy editor (news and investigations), Hyphen
- ☐ Jenny Manson, co-chair, Jewish Voice for Labour
- ☐ Mish Rahman, former member of Labour's National Executive Committee
- ☐ Professor Des Freedman, Goldsmiths, UoL
- ☐ Professor Natalie Fenton, Goldsmiths, UoL
- ☐ Vron Ware, visiting professor, LSE
- ☐ Professor Paul Rogers, University of Bradford
- ☐ Victoria Brittan, former associate foreign editor, The Guardian
- ☐ Jonathan Cook, journalist
- ☐ Iona Craig, journalist
- ☐ Joe Glenton, journalist
- ☐ Paul Heron, solicitor, Public Interest Law Centre
- ☐ Adam Ramsay, journalist
- ☐ Simon Hooper, journalist, Middle East Eye
- ☐ Omar Aziz, director, Palestine DeepDive
- ☐ Iain Overton, executive director, Action on Armed Violence
- ☐ Nick Dearden, director, Global Justice Now
- ☐ Ahdaf Soueif, novelist and political commentator
- ☐ Mirza Shahzad Akbar, politician and barrister
- ☐ Kenny MacAskill, former MP
- ☐ Oliver Eagleton, editor, New Left Review
- ☐ Steve Topple, journalist, Canary
- ☐ Maxine Betteridge-Moes, Digital Editor, New Internationalist
- ☐ Mark McDonald, human rights barrister
- ☐ Liz Davies KC
- ☐ Rajiv Menon KC
- ☐ Natalie Csengeri, barrister
- ☐ Asa Winstanley, journalist
- ☐ John Rees, co-founder, Stop the War Coalition
- ☐ Grace Cowell, barrister
- ☐ Angelina Nicolaou, barrister
- ☐ Dr Tom Mills, lecturer, Aston University
- ☐ Emma Sangster, Forces Watch
- ☐ Katie Fallon, Campaign Against the Arms Trade

- ☐ Sophie Bolt, general secretary of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- ☐ Dr Kate Hudson, former general secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- ☐ Justin Schlosberg, Media Reform Coalition
- ☐ Jonathan Heawood, executive director, Public Interest News Foundation
- ☐ Bill Bowring, emeritus professor of law, Birkbeck College, UoL
- ☐ Tommy Sheppard, former MP
- ☐ Richard Sanders, journalist and film maker

This letter has also been signed by 5,851 Declassified UK readers and supporters.