

LAW, TERRORISM AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Information Sheet

You are invited to participate in a study of the potential and actual effects that counter-terrorism and associated laws have on the media's ability to investigate and report on matters of public interest. The purpose of the study is to identify and evaluate the potential and actual effects that these laws have on public discussion and access to information, and to examine how democratic commitments to media freedom might best be balanced against contemporary demands of national security. The study is funded by a research fellowship grant from two UK government research councils: the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council).

The study is being conducted by Dr Lawrence McNamara (School of Law, University of Reading, UK; l.mcnamara@reading.ac.uk; tel 0118 378 5413). The research assistant on the project is Mr Sam McIntosh (s.mcintosh@reading.ac.uk; tel 0118 378 5678).

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to participate in a 45 minute interview regarding the ways that, as you see it, counter-terrorism and associated laws might and do affect the work of the media. The interviews will consider issues including:

- the ways journalists and media organizations are affected by the laws, looking at how they get information and what can be published.
- the ways information is managed and presented to the media and the public by the agencies of the executive government – eg, the police, the security authorities, the Home Office - to see what, when and how information is revealed.
- the ways suspects, their families and their legal representatives manage and present information to the media and the public, and the ways that the legal framework has an effect as they do so.

Interviews will be recorded using a digital audio recorder. A transcript can be provided on request and you may check, correct or clarify your statements if you wish. Any information gathered in the course of the study is confidential and will be stored securely and confidentially in line with University Research ethics procedures. No individual will be identified in any publication of the results. Only Dr McNamara and project research assistants will have access to the original data. It should be noted, however, that under UK laws researchers may in limited circumstances be required to reveal the content of interviews to police.

You will be offered the opportunity to provide written comments on draft findings of the study. Your comments may help inform the analysis and conclusions of the study. The findings of the study will be published in scholarly journals and in professional journals in the areas of law, media and politics.

If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw from further participation in the research at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence.

This application has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.

LAW, TERRORISM AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW**Consent to participation**

1. I have read and had explained to me by Dr Lawrence McNamara the accompanying Information Sheet relating to the project on Law, Terrorism and the Right to Know.
2. I have had explained to me the purposes of the project and what will be required of me, and any questions I have had have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to the arrangements described in the Information Sheet in so far as they relate to my participation.
3. I understand that participation is entirely voluntary and that I have the right to withdraw from the project any time, and that this will be without detriment to any care or services I may be receiving or may receive in the future.
4. I understand that I will be given the opportunity to review my transcript to check, correct or clarify my statements if I request so.
5. This application has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct
6. I have received a copy of this Consent Form and of the accompanying Information Sheet.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____