

Statement on behalf of the Fourth Claimant
Name: Jolyon Maugham
First witness statement
Exhibits: N/A
Date: 6 June 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING’S BENCH DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

In the matter of an application for Judicial Review

B E T W E E N:

**The King on the Application of
GOOD LAW PROJECT LTD**

Claimant

-and-

THE EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Defendant

-and-

**(1) THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITIES
(2) THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
(3) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS
(4) THE WELSH MINISTERS
(5) THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS**

Interested Parties

WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOLYON MAUGHAM

Introduction

- I, Jolyon Maugham, founder and executive director of Good Law Project Limited (“GLP”) of 3 East Point, High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, United Kingdom, TN15 0EG, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:
- I make this statement in support of the Claimant’s application for judicial review of the lawfulness of the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s interim guidance published on 25 April 2025 (‘the Guidance’) or for a declaration of incompatibility pursuant to section 4(2) and/or 4(4) of the Human Rights Act 1998.

- In so far as the facts in this statement are within my knowledge, they are true. In so far as the facts in this statement are not within my direct knowledge, they are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- The purpose of this statement is to explain the background to GLP's longstanding commitment to the trans community, including through regular legal action and strategic interventions where we feel we can assist the court on a particular issue.
- I have limited this statement to addressing issues which are relevant to GLP's interest in the claim. However, I am aware that an application has been made to add three individual Claimants to the claim, subject to a withholding order being approved by the Court. If anonymity is granted, they too will file witness statements detailing the impact of the guidance on their lives.

Background

- GLP is a not for profit organisation, founded in 2017, to hold power to account and bring together legal action, investigations and campaigning to fight for a fairer, greener future.
- As part of that mission, GLP has a longstanding commitment to representing the trans community through campaigns and litigation. In order to fund this work, GLP has raised around £1 million from over 26,000 donors across a variety of trans specific campaigns over the course of the last five years. GLP has a loyal and engaged supporter base, including a mailing list of 45,700 people who have shown a direct interest in our trans work either by donating to our trans rights fundraisers, reading our emails on trans topics, or indicating their interest in trans issues in GLP supporter surveys.
- The feedback that I get is that GLP is a very respected voice in the trans community and a trusted source of support for trans people. GLP is regularly contacted by trans individuals wishing to access legal support in relation to a wide range of cases. When we asked people to contact us if they had been affected by the Supreme Court's judgment in *For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers* [2025] UKSC 16 ("FWS"), we received over 400 responses from people directly affected or who were writing on behalf of a loved one.
- It is not always possible for us to talk about the legal cases and campaigns we have supported because doing so may impact on the privacy of the trans people we have sought to support. The extent of GLP's trans-focused work can nonetheless be demonstrated by, but is not limited to, the legal cases and campaigns outlined below.

GLP standing and sufficient interest

- In November 2020, GLP set up the Legal Defence Fund for Transgender Lives ("the Fund") with the intention that any funds raised were to be used to "*work in partnership with others where litigation can protect and defend the rights of transgender people to live as themselves.*" An Advisory Group was established to facilitate the administration of The Fund. By December 2020, the crowdfunder had raised in excess of £193,000.

- In January 2021, GLP instigated a successful intervention in the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust's appeal in *Bell v Tavistock [2021] EWCA Civ 1363*, ensuring that the voices of young trans people and the experts who prescribe puberty blockers were heard. The Fund was also used to finance the appeal.
- In June 2021, GLP supported *Mermaids* in launching their appeal of the Charity Commission's decision to grant *LGB Alliance UK* charitable status. GLP funded the costs of Mermaids' challenge using contributions from the Fund and money raised through a further crowdfunder, which raised £83,600 from over 3,100 donors.
- In October 2021, GLP was one of five Claimants with standing who issued proceedings against NHS England for the extreme waiting times faced by trans people trying to access specialised healthcare. The claim was dismissed in January 2023; GLP dedicated over 2 years of time and resources campaigning on the issue, made a substantial contribution to the costs from its own resources and raised over £49,600 from over 1200 donors.
- In June 2024, GLP supported a challenge to former health secretary Victoria Atkins' regulations introducing an immediate ban on trans young people obtaining puberty blockers in the UK prescribed by regulated prescribers throughout Europe. A crowdfunder raised over £60,400 from over 1700 donors.
- In September 2024, GLP supported Professor Stephen Whittle and Dr Victoria McCloud to file a joint application to intervene in *FWS*. Following the Supreme Court's judgment in April 2025, GLP established two trans fighting funds to fight the rollback in rights experienced by the trans community as a result of the judgment. At the time of writing, they have raised over £600,000 with over 14,600 donors supporting GLP to challenge the impact of the Supreme Court's decision.
- Following the Supreme Court judgment, GLP has put considerable resources into representing trans voices. Our work includes considering how, with GLP's support, people and organisations might mitigate some of the worst impacts the Supreme Court's ruling on trans' people lives.
- In June 2025, in response to a peaceful encampment by Trans Kids Deserve Better, the EHRC's landlord, I believe at the EHRC's request, sought an injunction to prevent protests outside its offices at Tintagel House in Vauxhall, London. The injunction sought was against persons unknown, lasting the short duration of EHRC's licence to occupy the Landlord's premises. Good Law Project intervened to resist the injunction application and in dismissing the application, Mr Justice Sheldon permitted GLP's intervention, noting GLP has a genuine and proper interest in questions relating to trans rights.
- Aside from its public campaigns, GLP has also supported trans individuals and their families in legal settings including schools, inquests and FOIA. In March 2025, GLP began supporting a trans claimant to appeal the Gender Recognition Panel's decision that the conditions for issuing him with a Gender Recognition Certificate were not satisfied. GLP has also supported a trans claimant with an application for anonymity on the basis that publishing their identity would put them at risk. These are just two

examples of over forty examples of trans rights work that GLP is currently pursuing post *For Women Scotland*.

GLP Litigation in the trans space

- As a private limited company, GLP is not regulated by the Charity Commission. It is instead a non-profit company, with an asset lock, which receives the majority of its funding from individual supporters across the UK, a model which keeps us fiercely independent. I understand from speaking to other organisations, which are regulated by the Charity Commission, that there is concern about litigating cases on behalf of trans people or for trans rights because there is evidence that organisations have faced costly and damaging investigations by the Charity Commission as a result of their activities in the trans rights space. What follows are some examples.
- On 2 December 2022, the Charity Commission announced it was opening a statutory inquiry into *Mermaids*, a prominent charity in the trans space, after it received over 62 complaints between September 2022 and July 2023 for providing support to trans young people. The inquiry completed in October 2024, and found no misconduct.
- In December 2022, mental health charity *Samaritans* was also reported to the Charity Commission after publicly supporting trans people on their social media. The post received an onslaught of transphobic responses, and an official complaint was made to the Charity Commission.
- In May 2025, Stonewall, an LGBTQ+ charity, was threatened by *Sex Matters*, a women's rights group, with referral to the Charity Commission unless it withdrew its advice following the Supreme Court judgment in *FWS*. Stonewall had previously spent substantial sums of money engaging in protracted correspondence with the Charity Commission – albeit that the latter never opened an investigation. Other large charities, including Oxfam, have also found themselves threatened with referrals to the Charity Commission.
- These risks are not just financial and regulatory. I have spoken to and seen evidence from the Chair of a trans inclusive charity of how their staff received threats and abuse through phone calls, emails and webchat messages which led to them having to close a helpline; and members of staff would have their personal histories published online alongside threats. One staff member had their home address published online and the local police were undertaking regular patrols outside their house. This led, the Chair's evidence records, to very high levels of resignations.
- It is certainly my own experience of seeking to persuade trans organisations to use the law to protect their legal rights that many conclude the non-financial costs – typically we indemnify our partners against legal costs – will be existential for their organisation and so they will not litigate under almost any circumstances. It is now my practice – because I want GLP to be a responsible partner – to tell would be litigants in the space that “I will not take ‘yes’ for an answer” (in other words that, whatever their initial level of enthusiasm, they should go away and talk to their stakeholders at great length about these non-financial costs before they consent). This was a key reason – albeit not the only one – why we were not able to find an organisation willing to intervene in the *FWS* case and instead sought to support an

intervention through a man and a woman who were prominent in the trans community.

- GLP is able to take these cases forward for a number of reasons including that it benefits from my cultural privilege as a cis man, it is not regulated by the Charity Commission, it has a Board that has a high-risk appetite, it does not publish its address and does not have phone lines and is supported by thousands of individual supporters. All of these were decisions that were very consciously taken – and they enable us to litigate in the space where others cannot.
- Good Law Project is both willing and able to litigate in this space, as can be seen from its resilience and its support for some of the most significant cases seeking to defend trans rights.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

Date: 6 June 2025