

UK State reply to alert “Media Freedom Advocates Raise Alarm over UK Counter-Terror Bill”

Received by e-mail on 27 March 2020

On 12 February 2019 the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 received Royal Assent. The Act clearly states that an offence is only committed in circumstances where there is reasonable suspicion that the person displaying or publishing an image is themselves a member or a supporter of a proscribed organisation. The offence therefore does not cover those who publish images in the pursuit of legitimate media reporting.

The UK Government is committed to protecting freedom of the press and recognises that a vibrant and free press plays an invaluable role in our cultural and democratic life and wants to make sure that continues, with high journalistic standards working in the public interest.