

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**KING'S BENCH DIVISION**

**B E T W E E N**

**(1) LONDON CITY AIRPORT LIMITED**

**(2) DOCKLANDS AVIATION GROUP LIMITED**

**Claimants**

**and**

**PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUST STOP OIL OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN, ENTER OCCUPY OR REMAIN (WITHOUT THE CLAIMANTS' CONSENT) UPON THAT AREA OF LAND KNOWN AS LONDON CITY AIRPORT (AS SHOWN FOR IDENTIFICATION EDGED RED ON THE ATTACHED PLAN 1) BUT EXCLUDING THOSE AREAS OF LAND AS FURTHER DEFINED IN THE CLAIM FORM**

**Defendant**

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**NOTE OF "WITHOUT NOTICE" HEARING BEFORE**

**MR JUSTICE JULIAN KNOWLES**

**20 June 2024**

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The hearing commenced at 10:30.

Mr Justice Julian Knowles was familiar with the jurisdiction having granted the HS2 "route wide" injunction [2022] EWHC 2360 (KB) and the ESSO Southampton London Pipeline injunction [2023] EWHC 2013 (KB).

The Judge had read the hearing bundle and the Claimant's skeleton argument and he had received the authorities bundle.

YV introduced the papers and handed up reports of incidents at Stonehenge on 19.06.24 and at Stanstead Airport on 20.06.24.

The Judge acknowledged this material as evidencing that protests were starting to happen.

YV proposed a "route map" which followed his skeleton argument.

1. The airports campaign + the risk of harm
2. The Claimant's decision to apply "without notice"
3. The site
4. The draft Order
5. The relevant legal tests and
6. The Claimant's submissions
7. The Claimant's obligation to give full and frank disclosure

## **1. The airports campaign + the risk of harm**

YV referred to paras 4 – 12 of his skeleton argument.

YV noted that the October 2019 incident had been organised by Extinction Rebellion (not Just Stop Oil).

YV referred to:-

- the following paragraphs of Alison FitzGerald's w/s
  - 6-10 – the airport business;
  - 19-26 – the October 2019 incident at London City Airport;
  - 27-32 – health and safety issues;
  - 35 – the Met police;
- the photograph of James Brown having glued himself to the top of an aircraft at London City Airport in October 2019 at "AMF3" (HB/90); and
- the Daily Mail article dated 9 March 2024 (which broke news of the JSO's 2024 airports campaign) at "SSW5" (HB/257-263).

The Judge noted the unusual location of London City Airport being close to a city centre.

## **2. Without Notice**

YV referred to paras 13-16 of his skeleton argument.

Whilst the Judge acknowledged that CPR 25.3 and s.12 HRA 1998 may not technically apply, he suggested that those tests be addressed on a belts and braces approach.

YV submitted that there were good or compelling reasons for the application being made without notice (notwithstanding his submission that this test does not extend to claims against classes of Persons Unknown). The good and compelling reasons were that if JSO were notified of the application for an injunction before the hearing they may well decide to take direct action before the injunction took effect (which would only happen once all the steps of notification had been completed): (1) this would lead to a risk of severe harm; (2) JSO may defeat the very purpose of the injunction. Although it could be argued that this was not a case involving, e.g., blackmail or freezing orders, there could be irreversible harm if a serious accident occurred or other disruption to passengers; and, (3) in circumstances where they had no right whatsoever to do so. YV referred to *Birmingham CC v Afsar* [2019] EWHC 1560 where Warby J referred to the fact that this might not be a relevant consideration. But YV tried to distinguish that case on the basis that Article 10/11 ECHR would not protect JSO in this case as it was on private land.

The Judge noted that all of the land in respect of which the Claimants seek an injunction is private land and commented that the position had not been so straightforward in the HS2 route wide injunction.

YV referred to p.719 of the White Book, para 25.3.3 and the reference to the Privy Council judgment in *National Commercial Bank Jamaica v Olint Corp.* That judgment purported to set out 2 bases for going without notice: where there is no time to notify and where notifying would defeat the purpose of the injunction. YV argued that this case was in the specific context of banking and could not and was not purporting to speak to the gamut of cases, including the present one relating to trespass on private land.

### **3. The Site**

YV explained Plan A, Plan 1 and Plans 2-8.

YV explained that the internal layout of buildings had been redacted for reasons of national security.

YV confirmed that the Judge was correct in surmising that some of the areas edged blue in the main terminal building were retail areas.

YV explained the points at which Hartmann Road ceases to be an adopted highway and the point where Hartmann Road passes through a subway below the DLR.

In relation to the location of warning notices, the Judge noted that although the airport could be accessed from the docks, the Claimants were not proposing to post warning notices in those locations. YV argued that anyone seeking to access the airport from the docks would clearly be part of the campaign of direct action and would likely know about the injunction once JSO were notified. They would also only be subject to the injunction if they fell within the definition of Persons Unknown. Instructions were taken from the Claimants Head of Legal who referred to the fact that the water level changes as the docks are tidal and that airport regulations would need to be considered before any notices could be affixed to stakes so close to the runway. The Judge was satisfied that the Claimants had considered the most appropriate places to affix the warning notices.

#### **4. The Draft Order**

YV explained that the Claimants were seeking a 5 year injunction subject to annual review.

Strictly speaking, it was neither an interim nor a final injunction.

YV referred the Judge to the fact that 5 years plus an annual review appeared to have become the standard duration for injunctions which protect oil and gas refineries and terminals and he referred to the cases listed at paragraph 7.13 of YV's text book.

The following amendments were made:-

- in recital a – the reference to "Plans 2-9" was changed to "Plans 2-8"
- in para 1 - the date was changed from 12 June 2027 to 20 June 2029
- in para 7 c – the wording was changed to allow the Claimants to include notification of the proceedings on the injunction warning notice

#### **5. Legal Tests**

YV referred the Judge to para 58 of Ritchie J's decision in *Valero v PUs* dated 26 January 2024 [2024] EWHC 134 (KB) in which Ritchie J set out his distillation of the 15 substantive requirements which the Claimant needed to satisfy. On the test to be satisfied for requirement number 3, YV accepted the test was higher than the serious issue to be tried threshold in *American Cyanamid*. He said whichever test you apply – "likely" to succeed at trial or the summary judgment test as in *Valero* – Cs satisfied it.

The Judge noted that there is no right to protest on private land “full stop”.

YV referred the Judge to the following paragraphs in Ritchie J’s decision in HS2 dated 24 May 2024 [2024] EWHC 1277 (KB) – 4, 5, 13, 15, 17 and 58-59.

The Judge noted that in substance if not in form, the Claimants were seeking a final injunction.

YV referred to an error in para 58(13) of Ritchie J’s judgment in Valero (the Judge referred to alternative service on Persons Unknown (which is inconsistent with *Wolverhampton CC v London Gypsies and Travellers* [2024] 2 WLR 42 (SC) – see footnote 7 on p 11 of YV’s skeleton argument).

## **6. The Claimants’ submissions**

YV addressed each of the 15 substantive requirements set out in Ritchie J’s decision by reference to para 24 of his skeleton argument.

## **7. Full and Frank Disclosure**

YV said that it might be said against the Claimants that:-

- the Claimants should proceed after giving notice (YV had already addressed this);
- there was no evidence of a direct threat against London City Airport (again YV had addressed this);
- the Public Order Act 2023 includes offences which are related to protest (the Judge said that the criminal law has a different purpose and that criminal proceedings can take a long time. YV agreed and also referred to the facts that: (1) landowners are entitled to vindicate their private rights; (2) enforcement would be up to Cs; (3) of the protestors who had been arrested and charged with criminal offences following the October 2019 incident at London City Airport, only James Brown had been convicted; and, (4) the police themselves had recommended LCY consider obtaining an injunction.

The Judge said that he would grant the Order as sought, subject to the minor amendments discussed, but that rather than giving an *ex tempore* judgment, he would provide written reasons in due course.

The hearing concluded at 11:45 am

