

**BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS
PRESS RELEASE
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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

**88 YEAR OLD PROTESTOR APPEALS AGAINST
BEING PLACED ON EXTREMIST DATABASE**

On 29 and 30 January 2013 the Court of Appeal will hear an appeal by Mr John Catt against Lord Justice Gross and Mr Justice Irwin's judgment dated 30 May 2012 in *Catt v Association of Chief Police Officers and The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2012] EWHC 1471 (Admin). The High Court judgment found that peaceful and law abiding protestors did not enjoy any right to privacy in relation to their protest activities. The High Court also found that it was proportionate to retain information about Mr Catt and other law abiding protestors on the Domestic Extremism Database.

The appeal hearing is scheduled to conclude on 30 January 2013 and will be heard by the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Dyson (Master of the Rolls), Lord Justice Bick-Moore and Lord Justice McCombe at Court 71 of the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London.

The *Equalities and Human Rights Commission* (EHRC) and the National Council for Civil Liberties (*Liberty*) have been granted permission to intervene in the appeal proceedings. Both are critical in their respective written submissions of the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) and the Commissioner's position.

Mr Catt is represented by Mr Shamik Dutta of Bhatt Murphy and Mr Tim Owen QC and Ms Alison Macdonald of Matrix Chambers. *Liberty* is represented by Ms Elizabeth Prochaska and the *EHRC* by Mr Martin Westgate QC and Ms Ruth Brander of Doughty Street Chambers.

Mr Shamik Dutta of Bhatt Murphy said as follows:

"The Court of Appeal will determine whether protestors forego the right to privacy if they engage in peaceful protest. If the appeal is successful, police forces will need to review the way in which they gather and retain information about protesters who have never committed any offence".

Notes to Editor

- A copy of the High Court judgment dated 30 May 2012 is saved [here](#) .
- Please email any requests for interviews to s.dutta@bhattmurphy.co.uk
- Mr Catt's case is funded by the Legal Services Commission.
- This hearing follows the publication of a reports by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission expressing concern regarding the policing of political protest in the UK: *The Human Rights Review* available [here](#) .

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