

## Statement

Journalists Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey will attend a hearing of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in London this week in relation to [claims](#) they were targeted by the UK authorities using covert surveillance.

The investigation stems from complaints filed by Birney and McCaffrey to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), an independent judicial body charged with looking into surveillance allegations. The IPT is now holding a hearing on the lawfulness of that alleged surveillance.

The case is the first of its kind involving UK authorities and as organisations that promote press freedom, transparency and human rights, we are supporting this case. A free press is essential for an open and functioning democracy.

The use of covert surveillance against journalists who speak the truth to power harms everyone's right to freedom of expression and information. We are also concerned that it is not only journalists who are subjected to unlawful action by public authorities using covert [intrusive](#) techniques involving UK authorities.

Amnesty International UK  
Committee to Protect Journalists  
Index on Censorship  
Open Rights Group  
Reporters Without Borders UK