

FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL GENERAL REGULATORY CHAMBER INFORMATION RIGHTS

Tribunal Reference: EA/2015/0269

Appellant: Queen Mary University of London

Respondents: The Information Commissioner

Mr Matthees

DECISION

- 1. Ms Eliot Smith asks me to reconsider decisions regarding the making available to her of certain tribunal materials concerning the above case, the hearing of which began today with a time estimate of three days.
- 2. Ms Eliot Smith operates a blog, which I have looked at and which appears to be primarily concerned with the position of ME sufferers. The Tribunal appeal concerns clinical studies regarding that subject. She states that she is unable to attend the hearing, owing to illness. She would like to see tribunal materials that are referred to in the course of the hearing. She relies in this regard on the judgments of the Court of Appeal in R (Guardian News and Media Limited v City of Westminster Magistrates' Court and the United States of America [2012] EWCA Civ 420. Ms Eliot Smith relies on the case because she intends to report on the Tribunal appeal in her blog.
- 3. We do not, of course, know what open documents before the Tribunal will be referred to in the proceedings. I shall ask the judge to let me know once the hearing has finished and consider the matter further. However, in the particular circumstances of this case, and without prejudice to any future request, I shall request the Tribunal's administration to email Ms Eliot Smith today a pdf copy of (a) the list of attendees; (b) the notice of decision; (c) the notice of appeal and grounds; (d) the IC's response; and (e) the second respondent's response.

Judge Peter Lane
Chamber President

Dated 20 April 2016