

IN THE KINGSTON MAGISTRATES' COURT

BETWEEN

REGINA

V

HOWARD FREDRICS

**ATTENDANCE NOTE
22nd JULY 2010**

RESULT: Harassment charged dismissed (no case to answer).

The District Judge ruled as follows:

The judge addressed Art 10 and freedom of speech principles in general and then turned to the charges.

Harassment – The drafting of the charge leaves a lot to be desired. It doesn't specify the dates of the course of conduct – there is no linkage between the dates. The conduct must cause harassment, alarm or distress. That the conduct is unattractive or unreasonable is not enough. This is not a statutory provision to protect reputation. The website attacked Sir Peter Scott in his professional capacity as VC of the University. It was not a personal attack. Sir Peter Scott accepted that it was professional not personal. Even the Police had their doubts. I have been shown evidence, in cross-examination by Mr Rhodes, of an entry in the CRIS that the OIC had reviewed the website and concluded that its content was not consistent with a charge of harassment. Any yet he was charged. The Police were not convinced and I am not convinced. There is not a case to answer here and I dismiss this charge.

**David Rhodes
Doughty Street Chambers**

22nd July 2010