

# Media advisory notice – embargoed judgments

Press release

The Solicitor General draws attention to the legal requirement not to publish, disseminate or retain material that has been obtained from embargoed court judgments



The Solicitor General Rt. Hon Michael Ellis QC MP

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Judgments subject to embargo are draft judgments handed down to parties in court proceedings in advance of those judgments being made public. The release of draft judgments to the parties plays an important role in ensuring that any inaccuracies or inappropriate material can be rectified before the judgment is made public. Embargoed judgments play an important role in the administration of justice.

The Solicitor General wishes to draw attention to Practice Direction 40E of the Civil Procedure Rules and the case of *Baignet v Random House Group* [2006] EWHC 1131 (Ch) which confirms that publication of an embargoed judgment, or the substance contained therein, may be viewed as a contempt of court.

Further, the Solicitor General emphasises that retention, use and/or further dissemination of an embargoed judgment, or its contents, even if no premature publication occurs, is capable of constituting contempt of court.

The Attorney General's Office will be monitoring purported breaches of embargoed judgments.

Editors, publishers and social media users should take legal advice to ensure they are in a position to fully comply with the obligations they are subject to under the Civil Procedure Rules PD 40E.

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