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PEOPLE'S CHALLENGE TO BREXIT AT THE SUPREME COURT.

The UK's 11-Justice Supreme Court will hear the Government open its appeal today against the ruling that it cannot use the Royal Prerogative to take the UK out of the EU by triggering Article 50. If the ruling stands, the process will be subject to parliamentary control and oversight and primary legislation will also need to cater for the EU law rights and duties woven into the UK's devolution arrangements.

Amongst those taking the challenge, is a group of people who have become known as "The Peoples' Challenge". The Peoples' challenge were successful in first instance before the London Divisional Court, to which this appeal now relates.

Over 5000 people have supported the People's Challenge group via CrowdJustice, a crowdfunding platform for public interest cases. The group's members were formally recognised as 'interested parties' at a preliminary hearing last July, and participated to ensure ordinary people's EU citizenship rights were fully taken into account by the judges dealing with the case. They have made detailed written submissions arguing that Divisional Court's ruling should stand complementing those of the Miller and Dos Santos teams and the intervening Scottish and Welsh Governments. The submissions are also backed by an Annex cataloguing the "fundamental and irreplaceable EU citizenship rights" at stake in the case.

The group consists of UK nationals Grahame and Rob Pigney who live in France, Paul Cartwright, a Gibraltar national who runs Brex-IN, Christopher Formaggia who lives in Wales, Tahmid Chowdhury, a London student and Fergal McFerran, president of the NUS-USI based in Belfast.

KRW Law appear instructed by Fergal McFerran, in tandem with Bindmans LLP who act for the remainder of the 'Peoples' Challenge'.

Darragh Mackin, Solicitor at KRW Law LLP arriving at the Supreme Court said:

"The Divisional Court was unequivocally clear in the first instance that the Prerogative cannot and should not be used to invoke Article 50.

There is a long list of fundamental and irreplaceable citizen rights that are at risk in this case. Such rights cannot be removed by Theresa May without the anxious scrutiny and accountability of parliamentary oversight.

These rights are particularly relevant to citizens of Northern Ireland, and as Fergal has outlined, to students of Ireland north and south."

Fergal McFerran, President of NUS-USI said

"I'm as confident in the strength of our arguments today as I was when we first entered the High Court. The Government's move to appeal the judgment makes as much sense as their current Brexit strategy, our aim is solely to instil some stability and accountability to the process of leaving the European Union and in I'm confident that we will once again prevail."

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Contact:

Darragh Mackin

KRW LAW LLP

Third Floor, The Sturgen Building

9-15 Queen Street

Belfast

Co Antrim

BT1 6EA

Tel: 028 9024 1888

Email: darragh@kevinrwinters.com