Mr. Joe Freedom

123 Freedom Street
London, NW1 3HQ

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Monday, March 28, 2022

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Mr. Joe Freedom. I am a member of BACP and am listed on your professional register as a Counsellor. I recently signed the Open Letter on Vaccine Mandates which was submitted to BACP by Therapists for Medical Freedom on the 23rd of February 2022, along with a request for BACP to clarify your stance on these important ethical matters.

I understand from Therapists for Medical Freedom that they haven't yet received a response from you about the concerns we raised, or a timeline for your considered response.

I was very disappointed to learn that this is the case, as the issues raised within the letter are very important to me, both on a professional and a personal level, as they could have serious implications for my career as a Counsellor.

I am writing to you to formally request that you provide Therapists for Medical Freedom with a response to their open letter, which clarifies your position as a professional body on the issues they have raised.

In particular, as a member of BACP, I would appreciate more clarification over your position on Vaccine Mandates. It is my hope that you can commit as a professional body to **never** requiring any mandatory medical treatment as part of the professional registration or deployment process for your members.

I would also appreciate clarification around how you plan to protect the human and employment rights of therapists and clients who exercise their right to not have the COVID-19 vaccination, or any other vaccinations that may be recommended in the future, and how you plan to support affected therapists who face job loss or discrimination in the workplace because of this choice.

The issue of vaccine mandates matters to me as a practictioner because:

I face losing my job and my income, and I'm really concerned about the impact it will have on my clients. I've already been threatened with job loss by my employer and I'm deeply concerned about the future - I really could use support from my professional body. I'm also concerned about the wider ethical implications of vaccine mandates as outlined in the open letter and feel we need to be discussing these ethical implications, not ignoring them.

As such, I ask you to formally commit that you will uphold the values that are written and protected within our own ethical codes by speaking out against vaccine mandates if they are ever

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proposed at a future point.

I ask that you publicly affirm your commitment to protecting the right of therapists and clients to freely give or withhold their consent to medical treatment without fear of coercion or punishment, as is in line with our ethics and values as therapeutic practitioners.

Whilst the COVID-19 vaccination programme and the issue of vaccine mandates is indeed a controversial topic in some areas, everything we know as therapeutic professionals tells us that the only way to resolve such conflicts and ethical dilemmas is through openhearted exploration and dialogue. Our clinical practice tells us that we do not resolve difficulties through silencing or ignoring the other - or through the dismissal/cancelling of points of view that are difficult to hear or understand.

It is disappointing to me that as a professional body, the BACP champions the values of transparency, open communication and a commitment to dialogue, yet has so pointedly refused to engage with this issue over the last two years, to the detriment of mental health in the UK.

As such, I respectfully request that you provide Therapists for Medical Freedom with a formal response to our collective concerns by the 30th of April 2022. I also ask that the BACP begins an ongoing process of dialogue with Therapists for Medical Freedom and other groups with concerns about these issues.

If you could directly send me a copy of your response to the email listed above, I will look forward to reading your position on these matters.

Yours Faithfully,

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Mr. Joe Freedom
BACP registered Counsellor .