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State replied

United Kingdom

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## Journalists Ian Cobain and Solomon Hughes Denied Accreditation to the Defense and Security Equipment International (DSEI) Arms Fair

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

**PARTNER: Index**

Two journalists, Ian Cobain and Solomon Hughes, have been denied accreditation to the Defense and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair by the event's security team.

Ian Cobain, a senior Middle East Eye journalist, was told on 4 September 2019 that his application to cover the DSEI, which is backed by the British government and is due to take place in London between 10-13 September 2019, had been rejected by the event's security team. Cobain was initially told that his accreditation was being delayed because the security team was checking whether he was a suitable journalist to be covering the fair. Despite having told the security team that he had been a journalist for more than 35 years, and had reported on several wars, Cobain was notified the following determinations: "After reviewing your application we are unable to establish that you are a journalist/editor/production team member in a relevant field."

Solomon Hughes, a journalist with the UK news and satirical magazine Private Eye, was also banned from the biennial event, despite having reported on it on the last three occasions.

### UPDATES

**25 Nov 2019:** On 7 November 2019, the Middle East Eye reported emails suggesting that Ian Cobain might have been denied entry to the DSEI fair because organisers feared he would cover the event in a negative light.

🔗 **Article from the Middle East Eye: "See if he chases': Why Ian Cobain was actually banned from covering UK arms fair"**

## STATE REPLIES



**20 Mar 2020** | Reply from the United Kingdom authorities

**➔ Letter from the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe**