

Weapons of Mass Suppression

Professor Paul Trummel: The Forgotten ICO Whistleblower (2015)

“Censorship by Hacking – The First Warning That Nobody Heard”

Background:

Professor Paul Trummel (USA), an academic and investigative journalist, was among the first international observers to identify systemic corruption within the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Writing in 2015 on *Ollie's Emporium* — a blog associated with FOI campaigners Alan M. Dransfield and Sheila Oliver — Trummel accused senior ICO officials of misconduct in public office, deliberate obstruction of legitimate Freedom of Information requests, and direct interference with online publications exposing government wrongdoing.

Key Allegations by Prof. Trummel

“As Christopher Graham, Information Commissioner, considers himself above the law, his three deputies become responsible and will be served jointly and severally. They continue to use wilful blindness as a defence to criminal activity, now rampant in ICO, by withholding information and sabotaging legitimate requests for information. ICO has hacked web sites in an attempt to destroy or censor published information which construes as prior restraint.”

Trummel warned that such “censorship by hacking” — if proven — would amount to a criminal conspiracy and possibly an act of cyber-terrorism under international law, since it sought to silence lawful speech and cover up misconduct by UK public authorities.

Ignored Warnings

Despite the gravity of Trummel's statements, there is no record of any police inquiry, ICO internal investigation, or parliamentary oversight action. His testimony and documentation were silenced and sidelined, much like later whistleblowers who raised concerns about the ICO's misuse of Section 14(1) FOIA to suppress public-interest disclosures.

Trummel's writings effectively predicted the “Weapons of Mass Suppression” strategy that followed — the use of the *Dransfield Vexatious Precedent* (2013) to deny access to thousands of public-interest requests on grounds of “burden” or “irritation.”

Continuity of Concerns

- 2015 – Trummel: Warns of hacking, misconduct, and wilful blindness inside ICO.
- 2013–2025 – Dransfield Case Legacy: ICO, Upper Tribunal, and multiple authorities deploy the Dransfield Precedent to justify blanket refusals under FOIA s.14(1) and GDPR Art 12(5)(b).
- 2025 – Dransfield Dossier: Presents corroborative evidence that Trummel's claims were never investigated and that ICO's systemic abuse continues unchecked.

Conclusion

Professor Paul Trummel's early whistle-blowing stands as a historical warning ignored by both government and media. His 2015 statement described an ICO culture of concealment and reprisal that has since hardened into institutional doctrine. In honour of his courage and foresight, this dossier records him as “the first to blow the whistle on the ICO – and the first to be silenced.”

Source:

Ollie's Emporium Blog – “ICO Abuses 419” (12 July 2015)

<https://blog.olliesemporium.co.uk/2015/07/12/ico-abuses-419/>