**To: {insert your MP name here}**
**Cc: Andrew Griffith MP**, Financial Secretary to the Treasury andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk

**Rt Hon Mel Stride MP**, Chair, Treasury Select Committee mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk

25 September 2022

**Re: Curtailment of free speech in the UK by PayPal Europe**

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the decision of PayPal Europe to close without notice or explanation the accounts – and in some cases confiscate the funds – of a number of prominent non-profit advocacy, campaigning and journalistic groups in the UK, including The Free Speech Union, UsForThem and the *Daily Sceptic*.

I would urge that you raise this issue in the House of Commons at your earliest convenience.

The effect of those actions has been to disrupt materially the ability of those organisations to operate in the short term and in some cases to freeze and thereby deny access to funds legitimately given to those organisations by members of the public, either in the form of membership dues or donations, for a period of at least 180 days. We understand that PayPal Europe has given no meaningful explanation for these closures and has declined requests to discuss its actions.

The common theme among the targeted organisations and individuals is that they have each become prominent in social, print and broadcast media as champions of free speech and for posing challenging questions and expressing critical, non-conforming views on lockdown policies and in particular their impacts on children. These are respectful and respectable campaigning groups operating fully within UK law. It is therefore hard to avoid construing PayPal’s actions as an orchestrated, politically-motivated move to silence critical or dissenting views

I believe the protection of free speech remains a central pillar of the UK’s open democracy. I therefore respectfully request that you ask the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority to fully investigate PayPal and its motivations, and, in addition, I would ask you to consider putting in place legislative safeguards so that no commercial company may again penalise people for exercising their lawful right to free speech in this way.

Yours sincerely,

**[Insert your name and address and email]**