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easyfundraising win landmark copyright infringement case against easyGroup

In a significant win for <u>easyfundraising</u>, as well as the thousands of charities and good causes which use its shopping cashback platform up and down the UK to raise funds, the UK High Court has ruled in easyfundraising's favour and against easyGroup in a landmark copyright infringement case.

In the ruling made today 11th September, Judge Mr Justice Fancourt ruled that: "Given my findings that there is no infringement of the Claimant's marks by the Defendants nor any passing off, this part of the Claimant's claim necessarily falls to be dismissed."

Further it was said that "there is no evidence of any confusion on the part of any supporter around the time 2005-2007 (or indeed subsequently), despite extensive searches for such documents."

Mr Justice Fancourt also ruled that "there is no evidence that easyfundraising obtained any unfair advantage in the establishment of its business as a result of its use of the word "easy"."

The landmark ruling means that easyfundraising will now be able to focus on its core business of helping charities and good causes raise as much money as possible through its innovative technology for good model, without the distraction of a protracted and expensive legal battle that has lasted over two years.

Since its formation in 2005, <u>easyfundraising</u> has raised over £55million for charities and good causes across the UK. The cashback platform allows online shoppers the chance to get money back for their favourite charity or good cause when they make purchases through the easyfundraising website or app with thousands of retailers.

Welcoming the landmark ruling, easyfundraising Chief Executive James Moir says: "Our decision to not back down against easyGroup's ridiculous claims and tactics has been entirely vindicated. This whole case has taken up so many months of management and business time that could have been far better spent on our core business of helping charities and good causes raise as

much money as possible. We hope that this judgement gives heart to others being sued by easyGroup that they can see them in court – and win.

He adds: "Essentially, this was a trademark case over the use of the word 'easy' in our name even though easyfundraising has existed for nearly 20 years. We have never claimed to be part of easyGroup - there would be no reason or reputational benefit for us to do this. It is telling that easyGroup were not able to produce a single piece of evidence showing any customer confusion has ever existed."

"We have never said we are a charity. We are a technology-for-good company that is benefiting charities and good causes throughout the UK to raise critical funds. We are proud of our reputation in the market, backed up with such a positive Trustpilot score, with over 90% of our reviews being 4 and 5 stars. Both of these points were very clearly understood and acknowledged by the Judge in his ruling.

We are delighted that the ruling is so conclusive and that we can now get on with helping those that really need our time and focus."

-- ENDS --

Editor's notes:

The <u>easyfundraising</u> cashback platform allows online shoppers the chance to get money back for their favourite charity or good cause when they make purchases through the easyfundraising website or app at no cost to the consumer.

easyfundraising partners with more than 8,000 brands and has raised more than £55 million for charities and good causes since its launch in 2007.