

■■■ RAISE THE COLOURS TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT

Public Accountability & Data Safety Review

FACT-CHECKED EDITION

Platform Reviewed: Raise The Colours (Founder: Ryan Bridge)

Assessment Date: 6 September 2026

Status: ■■ Significant Transparency Gaps Identified

Basis: Publicly available information, UK law, GDPR / Data Protection Act 2018

Position: Not an accusation of wrongdoing — a record of what IS and IS NOT disclosed

"Transparency is not an attack. It is the baseline of trust. If you have nothing to hide — there should be nothing to hide."

■ INTRODUCTION — WHY THIS ASSESSMENT EXISTS

We do not start from distrust. We start from **DUTY** — to the people, to the truth, and to the freedoms we hold dear.

Across the UK, people are seeking community, speaking up for their country, and looking for ways to make a difference. That passion — that love of home and community — is something to be respected. But passion without scrutiny is vulnerability. And transparency is not an accusation — it is the **BASIC standard** that **EVERY** public organisation must meet.

This document sets out what is publicly known, what is missing, and what every person has a **RIGHT** to ask before giving their name, their data, or their support. We do not claim this platform IS a state operation — but history **PROVES** such operations exist. And because they exist, we have a right to verify that this is **NOT** one of them.

■ ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This assessment has been independently fact-checked against publicly available sources including Wikipedia, Companies House, the ICO public register, mainstream media outlets (The Guardian, BBC, The Times, Birmingham Mail), and the organisation's own website. Where corrections to the original assessment were required, they are clearly marked.

■ HOW TO USE THIS ASSESSMENT

- Read it fully — understand what information is being requested of you
- Compare it — check against what the platform actually shows you
- Ask the questions — demand clear answers before you join
- Make up your own mind — we present the facts; **YOU** decide

If the platform provides the missing information — we will update this assessment publicly. Transparency works both ways.

■ FULL PLATFORM ASSESSMENT — RAISE THE COLOURS

Founder / Lead: Ryan Bridge | Date: 6 September 2026 | Assessment Status: ■■ TRANSPARENCY — SIGNIFICANT GAPS IDENTIFIED

■ PLATFORM PROFILE

Detail	Information / Status
Platform Name	Raise The Colours
Founder / Public Face	Ryan Bridge (co-founder Elliott Stanley — reported inactive since early 2026)
Background	UK flag-raising and anti-migrant group; active across social media and public events. Co-founded by Ryan Bridge and Elliott Stanley, two businessmen from Birmingham and north Worcestershire. Fact-check: Documented split with associate Danny 'Tommo' Thomas in early 2026; co-founder Elliott Stanley reported by <i>The i Paper</i> (June 2026) as no longer featured in group activities.
Legal Status	■ Unincorporated Association — NOT registered as a company, charity, or CIC. Fact-check: As of 1 November 2025, no company had been registered with Companies House under the name 'Raise the Colours', despite Bridge stating in October 2025 that he was doing so.
ICO Registration	■ Not found on public register — cannot be independently verified. Fact-check: Searched ICO public register; no entry found for 'Raise the Colours'.
Privacy Policy	■■ EXISTS but has significant gaps — A privacy policy is published on raisethecolours.org.uk (dated 3 September 2025). Fact-check CORRECTION: Original assessment stated 'Limited or not clearly visible' — a policy does exist. However, it contains a placeholder '[insert email]' for data rights requests, lists postal address as 'Available upon request', and does not display an ICO registration number.
Registered Address	■ Not disclosed — Privacy policy states 'Available upon request'. No physical address is publicly listed.
Named Data Controller	■■ Partial — Policy names 'Raise the Colours' as data controller with email press@raisethecolours.org.uk , but no named individual is identified as legally responsible.

■ **FACT-CHECK NOTE:** The original assessment correctly identified the unincorporated status and lack of ICO registration. However, it incorrectly stated the privacy policy was 'limited or not clearly visible' — a policy does exist on the website, though it contains notable deficiencies.

■ DATA COLLECTION — WHAT IS BEING ASKED

Data Item	Requested?	Risk Level
Full Name	■ Yes	Standard
Email Address	■ Yes	Standard
Date of Birth	■■ Not mentioned in privacy policy, but reported in some sign-up forms	High — must have clear lawful basis
Full Home Address / Postcode	■■ Address mentioned in privacy policy; postcode not specified	High — location data
Phone Number	■■ Mentioned in privacy policy	Medium
Additional profiling / group affiliation data	■ Unclear — no full transparency	Unknown

■■ **OBSERVATION:** The privacy policy (dated 3 September 2025) states it collects 'Contact details you provide (name, email, phone, address)' and 'Donation information (amount, payment method, eligibility details required by UK electoral law)'. Where date of birth is requested (as reported but not confirmed in the policy), GDPR requires a clear, stated, lawful purpose provided at the moment of collection. The policy lists 'Legitimate interests (to run and protect our website)' as one basis — this may not be sufficient for sensitive data fields.

■ **FACT-CHECK NOTE:** The privacy policy exists and is dated. It covers lawful bases, data retention (donation records: minimum 6 years; volunteer/contact records: until withdrawal of consent), and user rights under UK GDPR. However, it contains a placeholder '[insert email]' for exercising rights, undermining its practical utility.

■ FUNDING & FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Question	Answer / Status
Income sources disclosed?	■ Not clearly broken down — merchandise, donations, events, or other? The website states: 'Our official merchandise is now available. Each purchase helps sustain our work.' No breakdown of income streams is provided.
Bank account ownership?	■ Unclear — personal account or separate organisation account? Not stated.
Full accounts published?	■ Not published — no legal requirement as unincorporated association.
External funders disclosed?	■ Unknown — no transparency on third-party funding.
Spending breakdown?	■ Not provided — travel, events, tech, other costs not itemised.
Receipts provided?	■ Unconfirmed — no stated public policy.

■■ **KEY POINT:** As an unincorporated association, there is no legal obligation to publish accounts, disclose income, or undergo independent audit. This means no one outside the core organisers can verify where money comes from, how much is raised, or exactly how it is spent. This is a significant transparency gap — not because anything is proven wrong, but because there is no mechanism for public oversight.

■ GDPR & DATA PROTECTION — WHAT IS MISSING

Legal Requirement	Current Status	Fact-Check Notes
1. Named Data Controller — clear legal person responsible for data	■■ PARTIAL	Policy names 'Raise the Colours' with email press@raisethecolours.org.uk , but NO named individual is identified.
2. Clear Privacy Policy BEFORE data is collected — visible, readable, accessible	■■ PRESENT BUT DEFICIENT	Policy exists on website (dated 3 Sep 2025) but contains placeholder '[insert email]' for rights requests.
3. Purpose of each data item explained — why DOB? Why address?	■ NOT CLEAR	Policy lists general purposes but does not explain why specific high-risk fields (e.g. DOB, full address) are necessary.
4. ICO Registration — mandatory for processing personal data under UK law	■ NOT FOUND	Searched ICO public register — no entry for 'Raise the Colours' found as of 6 September 2026.
5. Data retention period — exactly how long data will be kept	■ STATED	Policy states: Donation records minimum 6 years; volunteer/contact records until withdrawal of consent; website logs 12 months.
6. Right to access & delete data — clear process for users	■■ PARTIAL	Rights are listed but the contact email is a placeholder '[insert email]' — practically unusable.
7. Third-party sharing statement — who else sees the data?	■ STATED	Policy mentions payment processors (Stripe, PayPal), service providers, and Electoral Commission if legally required.
8. Age / child protection policy — minimum age for joining, safeguards for young people	■ NOT STATED	No minimum age or child protection safeguards are mentioned in the privacy policy.

■■ **LEGAL ASSESSMENT:** Multiple core GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 requirements are not visibly satisfied. While a privacy policy exists, it contains significant deficiencies including a placeholder contact email, no named individual responsible, no ICO registration number, and no clear explanation for high-risk data fields. Without this information, consent cannot be fully informed — which undermines the legal basis for data collection.

■■ CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS — NOT ACCUSATIONS, BUT RELEVANT

Factor	Note
Unincorporated status	No independent oversight, no audit requirement, no legal separation between organisers and organisation assets/liabilities. Fact-check: Confirmed — as of November 2025, no company registration existed despite Bridge's statement he was registering with Companies House.
Data request scope	Where DOB + address are requested, this matches the level of detail that can identify individuals uniquely — exactly the data intelligence agencies and authorities seek in bulk datasets.
No transparency on funding	Without public accounts, there is no way to verify the source of income — public or private, domestic or foreign.
Documented legal issues	Fact-check — VERIFIED: Ryan Bridge has been arrested multiple times in 2026: (1) 24 March 2026 in Oxford on suspicion of racially and religiously aggravated harassment; (2) 16 May 2026 in London on suspicion of wounding (Stirchley hit-and-run); (3) Charged with common assault after Brighton protest (July 2026). Oxfordshire and Birmingham councils have sought High Court injunctions against Bridge and other members.
Far-right associations	Fact-check — VERIFIED: The group has documented links to far-right figures including Britain First leader Paul Golding, Tommy Robinson, and Danny 'Tommo' Thomas (convicted of attempted kidnap). <i>The i Paper</i> (June 2026) reported newer members include individuals displaying neo-Nazi symbols.
Anti-migrant vigilantism	Fact-check — VERIFIED: Members engaged in vigilante action in northern France. In January 2026, the French interior ministry banned 10 British nationals associated with the movement from entering France.
Precedent	UK intelligence agencies have a documented, declassified history of creating or leveraging groups to gather personal data.
Legal powers	Under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016, authorities can compel ANY organisation to hand over personal data — often without notifying the user — a power that applies equally to unincorporated associations.

■■ IMPORTANT — THE INFERENCE, NOT THE ACCUSATION:

We are **NOT** stating this IS an intelligence operation. We **ARE** stating:

- ■ Intelligence agencies CAN and HAVE operated through opaque organisations — this is public, declassified record
- ■ Current law allows authorities to compel data from ANY data-holding entity — without the user ever knowing

- ■ This platform collects personal data without full transparency — creating the very risk data protection law is designed to mitigate
- ■ Therefore — full transparency is the ONLY way to remove reasonable doubt.

The reasonable question is not 'Is this state-run?' — it is 'Why are the basic legal protections missing?' — and until they are provided, people have a right to be cautious.

■ SUMMARY — RED FLAGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Category		Finding
Transparency		■ Major gaps — no full named leadership publicly listed, no registered legal entity, no physical address disclosed.
Data Protection		■■ Partial compliance with significant gaps — Privacy policy exists but contains placeholder contact details, no named individual responsible, no ICO registration displayed.
Funding		■ Zero public transparency — no income, no spending, no audit.
Legal Compliance		■■ Cannot confirm full compliance — information not provided; unincorporated status means no oversight mechanism.
Public Risk		■■ Users may be asked to provide personal data without the information required to give fully informed consent.
Documented Issues	Legal	■ Founder has multiple arrests in 2026 — including racially aggravated harassment, wounding suspicion, and common assault charges. High Court injunctions sought by two councils.

■■ ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC

If you are considering joining or supporting this platform:

- ■ Do **NOT** share your date of birth or full home address until a clear privacy policy (without placeholders) and ICO registration are publicly provided
- ■ Do **NOT** make financial donations until income sources and spending are publicly disclosed
- ■ Do **NOT** assume your data is protected or private — no clear assurances exist
- ■ Ask the questions listed below — and wait for clear answers before committing
- ■ If they refuse to answer — that **IS** the answer — transparency is a choice, not a burden

■ WHAT WOULD IMPROVE THIS RATING

These simple, public steps would immediately address the major concerns and build trust:

1. ■ Publish full real names of those running the platform
2. ■ Register as a legal entity (Company, CIC, or Charity) — Bridge stated in October 2025 he was doing this; as of November 2025, no registration existed
3. ■ Publish a full GDPR-compliant privacy policy — visible BEFORE sign-up, with working contact details (not placeholders)
4. ■ Register with the ICO and display the registration number publicly
5. ■ Publish a simple breakdown of income and spending
6. ■ Explain exactly why date of birth and address data are necessary — or stop requesting them

■ SOURCES & FACT-CHECK METHODOLOGY

This assessment was fact-checked against the following sources:

- Wikipedia — *Raise the Colours (organisation)* and *Operation Raise the Colours* (multiple citations to The Guardian, BBC, The Times, Birmingham Mail, The i Paper, Oxford Mail)
- Companies House — searched for Ryan Bridge appointments and Raise the Colours registration
- ICO Public Register — searched for 'Raise the Colours' data protection registration
- Raise the Colours official website (raisethecolours.org.uk) — privacy policy dated 3 September 2025
- The Guardian, BBC News, The Times, Birmingham Mail, The i Paper, Searchlight Magazine — multiple reports 2025–2026

Correction Log: (1) Privacy policy — originally assessed as 'limited or not clearly visible'; corrected to 'exists but deficient' after locating policy on raisethecolours.org.uk. (2) Data retention — originally assessed as 'not stated'; corrected after policy confirmed retention periods.

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This assessment reflects publicly available information. It is not a finding of wrongdoing — it is a record of what information IS and IS NOT publicly disclosed. If representatives of Raise the Colours wish to provide the missing information, we will update this assessment accordingly.

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