

Core Participants Ruling 2

1. The Inquiry has received three late applications for designation as core participant.
2. The first, made by Deighton Pierce Glynn, solicitors, on behalf of Ken Livingstone, is dated 26 October 2015. It is disappointing that Mr Livingstone failed to make his application within the timetable set by the Inquiry on 28 July 2015. Mr Livingstone falls within the category of applicants identified as “Category [D] Political organisations and politicians” referred to at paragraph 9 of my revised core participant ruling of 26 October 2015.
3. The second and third applications, made by Harrison Bunday, solicitors, on behalf of Mohammed Amran and Janet Alder, are dated 27 October 2015. Harrison Bunday first made contact with the Inquiry on 31 July when the firm was unsure whether the applicants qualified for designation as core participants. Mr Amran’s and Ms Alder’s applications fall within Category [J] Justice campaigns.
4. This ruling should be read together with paragraphs 1 – 18 of my revised first core participant ruling of 26 October 2015 for its statement of the principles that I have applied to the present applications.
5. **I shall designate:**
Ken Livingstone [102]
6. **I will not designate:**
Mohammed Amran [103]
Janet Alder [104]
7. Ken Livingstone was Leader of the Greater London Council between 1981 and 1986, the Mayor of London between 2000 and 2008 and the member of parliament for Brent East between 1987 and 2001. Mr Livingstone is a well known left wing politician. On 25 March 2015 the Guardian newspaper published an article based upon an interview with Peter Francis. Mr Francis claimed that while he was an undercover police officer in the 1990s he gathered information on named left wing politicians and reported his findings to special branch. He also said that he had seen special branch files on a number of other named left wing politicians, including Ken Livingstone. The implication was that they too had been targets for undercover police operations.

8. Matters of importance to the Inquiry are whether undercover police operations were directed at politicians and if so, for what purpose. In my view, while it is not likely that Mr Livingstone will be the subject of significant criticism under rule 5 (2)(c) of The Inquiry Rules 2006, he has established, within the meaning of rule 5 (2)(a) and (b), that he had or may have had a direct and significant role in a matter of importance to the Inquiry and a significant interest in the Inquiry's investigation into that matter.
9. Mohammed Amran is a community activist in Bradford who was, in 1998, appointed as a commissioner for the Commission for Racial Equality. He was due to give evidence to the Macpherson Inquiry sitting at Bradford on 21 October 1998. In July 2013 the West Yorkshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire made a referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The subject of the referral was a confidential intelligence report apparently compiled upon Mr Amran by special branch at the request of the then Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police. The report was for the information of the Assistant Chief Constable and for the briefing of senior officers of the West Yorkshire Police who were also to give evidence to the Macpherson Inquiry. Mr Amran's solicitors assert that the intelligence information contained within the redacted report appears to have been compiled over a period of years but it seems to be conceded that the contents do not reveal or imply the use of *undercover* police sources rather than covert intelligence gathering.
10. Janet Alder is the sister of Christopher Alder who died while in police custody on April 1998. An inquest jury held in 2000 that Mr Alder had been unlawfully killed but the prosecution subsequently brought against individual police officers resulted in acquittals. Ms Alder has been a campaigner for justice on behalf of her brother and his family since his death. In 2013 Ms Alder was informed by Humberside Police that during the inquest into her brother's death covert surveillance was employed upon her and counsel who represented the family at the inquest. Ms Alder considers that this is likely to be only partial disclosure of the extent of surveillance of her. However, the Inquiry is not informed that the covert surveillance revealed was conducted by *undercover* police officers relying on a relationship with their target.
11. Both Mr Amran's and Ms Alder's applications raise important issues for investigation by the Inquiry. However, before that investigation takes place I am unable to conclude that they had or may have had a direct and significant role in a matter the subject of the Inquiry. Subject to further submissions, if any, their applications will be kept under review and, if appropriate, a designation will take place at a later time.