

## Recognised Legal Representative Ruling 2

1. On 16 December 2015 I designated core participant status to Diane Abbott MP, Dame Joan Ruddock, Smash EDO, Ceri Gibbons and 'Andrea', and further core participant status to Paul Chatterton and Jacqueline Sheedy. Each of these core participants now applies for designation of a recognised legal representative. Since the oral hearing held on 4 November 2015 the Inquiry has received further applications for the designation of a recognised legal representative from Clare Hildreth, Brian Healy and Paul Gravett.
2. This ruling should be read together with paragraphs 1 – 12 of the first recognised legal representative ruling dated 9 November 2015 (that can be found on the Inquiry's web site) because they describe the background to the applications and the principles that I have applied to each of them.
3. Ms Abbott MP has been designated a core participant in her capacity as a politician who had or may have had a direct and significant role in the subject matter of the Inquiry. She has appointed Tamsin Allen of Bindmans solicitors to act on her behalf. Although her role and interest places her within **Category [D] Political institutions and politicians**, in common with Ken Livingstone, Ms Abbott's position is unique because she has been a sitting member of parliament throughout the period when, according to Peter Francis, she was kept under observation. Since Tamsin Allen has already been designated a recognised legal representative for another core participant it is fair and proper that she should also be designated the recognised legal representative for Ms Abbott, notwithstanding that a different lawyer has been designated for Mr Livingstone.
4. Dame Joan Ruddock has also applied for the designation of Tamsin Allen of Bindmans as her recognised legal representative. Dame Joan shares an interest in the Inquiry proceedings the same as or similar to that of Diane Abbott MP for whom I have designated Tamsin Allen in paragraph 3 above. I shall designate Tamsin Allen the recognised legal representative of Dame Joan Ruddock also.
4. Mike Schwarz of Bindmans has been designated already the recognised legal representative of Paul Chatterton and Jacqueline Sheedy. For the avoidance of doubt that representation will apply to their extended core participant status designated in my written ruling of 16 December 2015.

## UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

5. Clare Hildreth is a core participant through her activities as a member of London Boots Action. Mike Schwarz is recognised legal representative of Paul Gravett who is a core participant in the same **Category [L] Social and environmental** activists. Ms Hildreth wishes him also to act on her behalf. I shall designate Mr Schwarz the recognised legal representative of Clare Hildreth. For the avoidance of doubt Mike Schwarz is the recognised legal representative of Paul Gravett in his capacity as, amongst other things, a member of London Animal Action, notwithstanding that Mr Schwarz has no instructions from and is not designated as recognised legal representative for London Animal Action.
6. Brian Healy is a core participant by reason of his membership of the McLibel Support Campaign Group and the Genetic Engineering Network in **Category [L] Social and environmental activists**. Mr Schwarz is already Mr Healy's recognised legal representative in respect of his membership of Genetic Engineering Network. He wishes that designation to be extended to embrace his participation as a member of the McLibel group. I will make that designation. For the avoidance of doubt neither the McLibel group nor any other member of it has appointed a lawyer to act on their behalf.
7. Guy Taylor seeks designation of Matt Foot of Birnberg Peirce and Partners as his recognised legal representative. Mr Foot provided legal support to Globalise Resistance and in that capacity was personally known to Mr Taylor between 2002 and 2008. Mr Taylor shares an interest in the Inquiry with others in **Category [K] Political activists**, a category of clients for whom Birnberg Peirce does not already act. However, having regard to the pre-existing professional relationship between the core participants and Mr Foot I do not consider that it would fair and proper to require them to be jointly represented with others by another recognised legal representative. I therefore designate Matt Foot of Birnberg Peirce and Partners as the recognised legal representative of Globalise Resistance and Guy Taylor.
8. Lydia Dagostino of Kellys Solicitors, Brighton, is currently acting for Ceri Gibbons. She submitted representations supportive of Mr Gibbons' application for designation as core participant. Kellys do not act for any other core participant in the Inquiry. Mr Gibbons has a general interest in the Inquiry similar to that of others in **Category [K] Political activists**. However, Kellys is a practice local to the industrial estate where the events described by Mr Gibbons took place. As he put it when asked by the Inquiry team, Kellys has over 10 years of institutional memory. That is a consequence of their involvement in several of the criminal cases that arose from the protests in

## UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

Brighton. In my view, local knowledge would be an advantage to Mr Gibbons and to the Inquiry. It would not be fair and proper to require him to be represented by another lawyer simply because they are already designated recognised legal representative for other core participants in the same category. I shall designate Lydia Dagostino of Kellys Solicitors, Brighton as Ceri Gibbons' recognised legal representative at the inquiry.

9. Harriet Wistrich of Birnberg Peirce and Partners is currently the recognised legal representative for eight core participants in **Category [H] Individuals in relationships with undercover officers**. 'Andrea' has an interest in the Inquiry that is the same as or similar to that of Ms Wistrich's present clients. She wishes Ms Wistrich to represent her. It is fair and proper that she should so. Accordingly, I designate Harriet Wistrich of Birnberg Peirce and Partners the recognised legal representative of 'Andrea' at the Inquiry.
10. Beth Handley of Hickman and Rose is the recognised legal representative designated to represent several core participants in **Category [H] Individuals in relationships with undercover officers, Category [K] Political activists, Category [L] Social and Environmental activists and Category [M] Families of police officers**. In an application received on 15 December 2015 Hickman and Rose seek to have the designation changed from Beth Handley to Stefano Ruis during her sabbatical leave between 7 December 2015 and October 2016. When the designation was made I accepted the argument that the personal connection between Ms Handley and some of her clients was a good reason for making the designation in her favour. Although I was informed that at some stage Ms Handley would be taking sabbatical leave I was not aware that it would occur so early in the life of the Inquiry.
11. However, Mr Ruis is a partner in the firm of Hickman and Rose and, furthermore, he is Ms Handley's supervisor. For that reason he is familiar with the issues that arise in the cases of those core participants who are Ms Handley's clients. Secondly, I think it unlikely that the core participants will be required to give oral evidence to the Inquiry until Ms Handley has returned to work in October 2016. For these reasons I shall make the order sought. Ms Handley will be removed as recognised legal representative as from 7 December 2015 and she will be replaced as from that date by Stefano Ruis. When she returns a further application to the Inquiry will be required.

16 December 2015

Sir Christopher Pitchford  
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry