

Preliminary Issue: Deceased children Further directions

1. I have received Counsel to the Inquiry's Note dated 17 May 2016 as to the principles to be applied to the preliminary issue whether the use of a deceased child's identity by a police service should be disclosed and, if so, in what circumstances. Responses have been received from the Home Office (1 June 2016), the National Police Chiefs' Council (1 June 2016), the Metropolitan Police Service (under cover of a letter of 1 June 2016), the National Crime Agency (1 June 2016) and on behalf of Barbara Shaw, Gordon Peters and RDCA (1 June 2016).
2. The submissions in response by Ms Heather Williams QC and Ms Fiona Murphy on behalf of Mrs Shaw, Mr Peters and RDCA are thoughtful and challenging. I have decided that an oral hearing is necessary and that it will take place at the Royal Courts of Justice on Wednesday, 22 June 2016 commencing at 10.30 am.
3. I have asked the Inquiry's counsel team to prepare a written response for circulation among the other interested core participants. The purpose is principally to identify points of agreement and disagreement so that oral submissions can be focused on matters on which I will need most assistance. If the other interested core participants wish to expand on written submissions already made they should submit skeleton arguments in accordance with the timetable below.
4. I shall direct that:
 - (1) The Inquiry's counsel team will circulate a written response to the written submissions and responses of the interested core participants listed in paragraph 1 above by 4 pm on Friday, 10 June 2016;
 - (2) An interested core participant listed at paragraph 1 above may, if they wish, submit a written skeleton argument to be received by the Inquiry by 4 pm on Friday, 17 June 2016;
 - (3) The Inquiry team will distribute bundles of authorities by 4 pm on Monday, 20 June 2016;
 - (4) An oral hearing will be held at Court 73, the Royal Court of Justice commencing at 10.30 am on Wednesday, 22 June 2016.

8 June 2016

Sir Christopher Pitchford
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry