

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 July 2016

## PRESS NOTICE

### **Ruling in respect of Disclosure of Deceased Children's Identities**

Sir Christopher Pitchford, the Chairman of the Inquiry into undercover policing, has today published his [Ruling](#) in respect of the disclosure of the use of the names of deceased children by undercover police officers to help create an undercover identity. The Ruling details the legal arguments made to the Inquiry and states that Inquiry will investigate how wide the practice was, whether it is still used and, if not, when it ceased.

The Ruling states that where the Inquiry discovers that the name of a deceased child has been used by a police officer for covert purposes, it will take steps to inform the parents or close relatives of that child where there is not proposed to be a restriction order preventing publication of that information, in advance of that information being released. This will enable parents or close relatives to raise any objection to publication.

The ruling acknowledges that a number of families have already expressed a wish to know whether a child's identity was the subject of this practice, and that there are likely to be more. It may not be possible for the Inquiry to provide an answer to this positively or negatively, where this would breach or undermine a restriction order. The position will be kept under review until the evidential position becomes clearer.

Subject to all the above the Inquiry acknowledges that there is a strong public interest in openness in the Inquiry's proceedings, particularly where it is necessary to ensure that interested persons can participate fairly and effectively. The Inquiry will issue an invitation to the parents or close relatives of a deceased child to contact the Inquiry to register an interest in this issue in due course.

Further information on this can be found in the [overview note](#), and its question and answer section, which accompanies the Ruling.

#### **Next Steps**

In connection with this issue the Inquiry will, in due course, publish a notice inviting the parents or close relatives of a deceased child to contact the Inquiry to register an interest in this issue. In order that families are not misled as to the practical effects of such an expression of interest, the Inquiry's public notice will explain that an expression of interest may result in a response that is delayed or in no response at all. In advance of the public notice being issued, the Inquiry intends to consult the principle interested participants both upon the terms and the timing of the public notice.

# UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

In the event that the Inquiry needs to contact a relative prior to the public release of information, it will engage the assistance of specialist support services to ensure that any such interaction is conducted in such a way so as to minimise distress to the relative.

## Background

The hearing on the use of deceased children's identities took place on 22 June 2016.

The purpose of the Inquiry into undercover policing is inquire into and report on undercover police operations conducted by English and Welsh police forces in England and Wales since 1968. The Inquiry will examine the contribution undercover policing has made to tackling crime, how it was and is supervised and regulated, and its effect on individuals involved, both police officers and others who came into contact with them.

The Inquiry ranges across the full scope of undercover policing work and will look at the work of the Special Demonstration Squad, the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and police forces in England and Wales. The Inquiry will also examine whether people may have been wrongly convicted in cases involving undercover police officers, and refer any such cases to a separate panel for consideration.

The work of the Inquiry will fall into three modules:

1. Module one will look at what happened in the deployment of undercover officers in the past, their conduct, and the impact of their activities on themselves and others.
2. Module two will look at the management and oversight of undercover officers, including their selection, training, supervision and care after the end of an undercover deployment. This section will also look at the law and other rules covering undercover policing.
3. Module three will make recommendations about how undercover policing should be conducted in future.

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. This press notice does not form part of the Ruling and does not form part of its reasoning. The full Ruling is the only authoritative document and is available on the Inquiry's website, [here](#).
2. Information by way of background to the Ruling (including the submissions that the Inquiry received, and the transcript of the hearing on 22 June 2016) can be found [here](#).
3. An [overview note](#) of the Ruling has been produced to aid understanding.
4. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is constituted under the Inquiries Act 2005.
5. The Inquiry's [terms of reference](#) were announced by the Home Secretary on 16 July 2015.
6. The Inquiry now publishes a regular update, the first of which (June 2016) is available [here](#).
7. The Inquiry's website is [www.ucpi.org.uk](http://www.ucpi.org.uk) and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry

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