

Core participants

Ruling 10

1. The Inquiry has received an application made on behalf of 'HAB' for designation as a core participant pursuant to rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006.
2. In paragraphs 1 – 17 of my first Core Participants ruling of 21 October 2015 I set out the principles and approach that I would apply to applications for designation. At paragraphs 144 and 145, under the title “[M] Families of police officers”, I made observations as to the important contribution that close family members of undercover police officers might be able to make to the work of the Inquiry. This ruling should be read together with those paragraphs.
3. HAB, whose identity is known to the Inquiry, is the former wife of a police officer employed undercover in the Special Demonstration Squad. She has an important contribution to make to the Inquiry’s examination of the selection of officers for an undercover role, the knowledge and understanding of close family members of commitment to that role and the effect of the deployment upon individuals within the family and to family life.
4. In my view, HAB played a direct and significant role in relation to matters to which the Inquiry relates, within the meaning of rule 5 (2)(a) of the Inquiry Rules 2006.
5. This is a late application for designation as a core participant. HAB has explained how she became aware of the Inquiry and the reasons why she has been circumspect about making her application. I accept that there has been good reason for the delay and I do not consider that it undermines the merits of the application.
6. I shall designate HAB a core participant in the Inquiry pursuant to rule 5 of the Inquiries Act 2005.
7. In common with other applicants HAB will be given provisional anonymity pending a formal application for a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005. For reasons provided to the Inquiry, the grant of provisional anonymity is, in this case, supported by an interim restriction order which is published with this ruling.

3 August 2016

Sir Christopher Pitchford
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry