

## Preliminary Issue: Restriction orders

(Anonymity applications by Slater and Gordon police officer core participants)

### Partial withdrawal of direction made on 27 May 2016

1. On 27 May 2016 I issued further directions concerning the submission of applications for anonymity made by police officers represented by Slater and Gordon.<sup>1</sup> Those further directions were required to enable me, as a necessary preliminary step, to make decisions upon applications for anonymity to be submitted by the Metropolitan Police Service on behalf of supporting witnesses known to the Inquiry as Cairo, Jaipur and Karachi.
2. By those directions I required the recognised legal representative for the Slater and Gordon applicants to submit to the Inquiry all and any further evidence on which their clients wished to rely in support of their applications for anonymity by 4 pm on Thursday, 14 July 2016. I have since considered and granted extensions of this deadline for reasons it is not necessary to detail.
3. Secondly, in a ruling dated 19 July 2016 (posted on the Inquiry's web site on 27 July 2016),<sup>2</sup> I gave my reasons for granting an order for anonymity in the case of Cairo and directed:

*“that counsel for the Metropolitan Police Service and counsel to the Inquiry prepare a file of Cairo’s provisionally open and/or redacted and/or gisted witness statement of 12 February 2016, summarised at paragraph 2 above, for disclosure. The file will be submitted to me for approval or decision. Disclosure of the file shall take place as soon as possible after 14 days has elapsed from the publication of this ruling.”*
4. The Inquiry is still not in receipt of all the evidence on which the Slater and Gordon applicants intend to reply in support of their applications for anonymity. Furthermore, the Metropolitan Police Service has not yet completed the work required to prepare Cairo’s witness statement for disclosure to the non-police, non-state core participants.

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<sup>1</sup> See Preliminary Issue: Restriction Orders (anonymity applications) Further directions, dated 27 May 2016, paragraph 5

<sup>2</sup> In the matter of Section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 Applications for restriction orders in respect of ‘Cairo’, ‘Jaipur’, and ‘Karachi’ Ruling and further directions, dated 19 July 2016, at paragraph 30

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5. Although the Inquiry has monitored and continues to monitor the progress of the Slater and Gordon and Metropolitan Police Service applications, it is clear to me that the Inquiry will not be in a position to circulate the open evidence in sufficient time to allow the non-police, non-state core participants to consider the material and provide their response by 15 September 2016.
6. **Consequently, I have decided to withdraw the direction made on 27 May 2016 at paragraph 5(4)** which provided as follows:

*“By 4 pm on Thursday, 15 September 2016 the non-police, non-state core participants shall deliver to the Inquiry such written response to the applications for anonymity made by the Slater and Gordon police officers as they wish. Subject to further application to the Chairman, there will be a single joint response from legally represented non-police, non-state core participants.”*
7. I do not consider that it is possible, now, to set a substitute deadline for submissions from the non-police, non-state core participants. I will keep this matter under review, and provide an updated direction as soon as I am able.

22 August 2016

Sir Christopher Pitchford  
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry