

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 October 2016

PRESS NOTICE

The Chairman's note on risk assessments in respect of applications for restriction orders

Sir Christopher Pitchford, the Chairman of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, has today issued a [guidance note](#) on risk assessments in respect of restriction orders sought by or on behalf of police officers. The purpose of the note is to be helpful to those undertaking risk assessments and to ensure that the preparation and submission of risk assessments in support of applications for anonymity is manageable and not unreasonably protracted.

In his note the Chairman sets out his expectations around how evidence should be presented, the importance of complete information, of full evaluations, and of clarity around the sources of the risk. The note also sets out how the Chairman would be assisted in assessing the risk of harm posed to the applicant, and the information he will require about matters which are already in the public domain. The note also sets out the need for a risk evaluation of whether harm or damage will occur if a restriction order is not made and states the importance of bringing consistency to the risk assessment process. Finally the Chairman makes clear that it is important that the Inquiry is provided with copies of all documents relevant to the risk assessment at the time the assessment is submitted.

Background

The Chairman's guidance note follows a decision by the Metropolitan Police Service to withdrawn officers known as 'Jaipur' and 'Karachi' as risk assessors.

The purpose of the Undercover Policing Inquiry is to investigate 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 work of 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.

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

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

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. This press notice does not form part of the [Chairman's note](#) and does not form part of its reasoning. The full note is the only authoritative document.
2. An [overview note](#) has been produced to aid understanding.
3. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is constituted under the Inquiries Act 2005.
4. The Inquiry's [terms of reference](#) were announced by the Home Secretary on 16 July 2015.
5. Information by way of background on restriction orders more generally can be found in the [Ruling](#) dated 3 May 2016 (Restriction Orders: Legal Principles and Approach)
6. The Inquiry's '[frequently asked questions](#)' provides more information on the Inquiry more generally, as do [two published update notes](#).
7. The Inquiry's website is www.ucpi.org.uk and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry

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