FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **20 February 2017**

PRESS NOTICE

Sir Christopher Pitchford

The Undercover Policing Inquiry regrets to announce that in November 2016 its Chairman, Sir Christopher Pitchford, was diagnosed as suffering from motor neurone disease (specifically, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Sir Christopher's illness is not having any negative impact on the Inquiry's progress; our investigations are continuing, and hearings will be held as necessary.

The Home Secretary and Lord Chief Justice are aware of the diagnosis.

Although Sir Christopher's illness does not affect upon cognitive function and has not, to date, impacted significantly on his work, its physical symptoms are becoming apparent and will, in time, affect his ability to continue with this work. Sir Christopher is keen to continue for as long as he is able to do so, and the Inquiry and Home Secretary are committed to supporting him to do so.

Alongside the continuation of our work, contingency arrangements are being made for the appointment of a further judicial office holder as an additional panel member with a view to that panel member succeeding Sir Christopher as chairman of the Inquiry at an appropriate time.

Sir Christopher has made the following personal statement:

> "I very much regret that my diagnosis and the progression of my physical symptoms mean that I shall not be able to complete the work of the Inquiry. However, I wish to assure the Inquiry's core participants and the public that the Inquiry's work continues unabated and that, with the support of the Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice, for which I am grateful, the transitional arrangements that are being put in place will ensure its continuity when the time comes for me to step down as Chairman."

Whilst this news is clearly of relevance and interest to those engaged with or interested in the work of the Inquiry, the Inquiry asks that the personal privacy of Sir Christopher and his family is respected.

Background

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.

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

The Inquiry's website is www.ucpi.org.uk and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry.

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