

## Preliminary Issue:

### The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and its impact on the Inquiry's work

#### Direction

1. I have received a Note from counsel to the Inquiry on the subject of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 ('the Act') and its impact on the Inquiry's work. Counsel's Note will be published on the Inquiry's website alongside this direction.
2. I consider that this is a matter of sufficient importance that core participants should be given the opportunity to make written submissions before I decide whether or not I need to request exceptions from the normal operation of the Act. With this objective in mind I shall direct that by 4 pm on Wednesday, 29 March 2017 the core participants shall file position statements (if so advised) addressing the issues identified at paragraph 109 of counsel's Note.
3. The Inquiry will accept only a single joint written response from the co-operating group of non-police, non-state core participants (for which funding for the services of one leading and one junior counsel is approved) unless I give prior authority for more than one response.
4. Upon receipt, the Inquiry will circulate and publish the position statements, and I will consider what further steps are necessary.

1 March 2017

Sir Christopher Pitchford  
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry