

4 April 2017

## OPERATIONAL NOTE

### Preliminary hearing

**Date:** Wednesday 5 April 2017 (and Thursday 6 April 2017, if required)

**Start Time:** 10.30am

Advocates will be allowed into the courtroom from 10:00.

Doors will open for core participants, members of the public and the press at 10:15.

**Location:** Court 76, Royal Courts of Justice ('RCJ'), Strand, London WC2A 2LL

Sir Christopher Pitchford, the Chairman of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, will hold a one to two day preliminary hearing on 5 April 2017 to determine two applications by the Metropolitan Police Service:

1. for an extension of time for restriction order applications on behalf of police officers formerly employed by the Special Demonstration Squad; and
2. in respect of the Inquiry's approach to those restriction order applications.

The Chairman's current view is that the approach the Inquiry is taking is necessary to discharge its terms of reference, however, this request has brought the timetable and complexity of the Inquiry into sharp focus. Therefore the Chairman has decided that these issues need to be aired at a hearing in which other core participants can contribute.

Copies of the Chairman's directions for hearing and the core participants' submissions can be found [here](#).

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Media

1. Media representatives must present valid identification on arrival (media organisation staff pass, National Union of Journalists card, or a letter of accreditation from a media organisation).
2. Sir Christopher will not give media interviews.
3. Transcripts of the proceedings will be posted up on the Undercover Policing Inquiry website as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing.
4. Wifi is not available in RCJ courtrooms. There is a BT Openzone Hotspot at the back of the main hall near the coffee shop, Café 26. MiFi dongles may be used in courtrooms.

### Restrictions in the RCJ & in the Hearing Room and in the Media/Public Annex

5. The RCJ conduct security checks and maintain the following restrictions:
  - Camera and recording equipment are strictly prohibited and should not be brought into the RCJ.
  - Mobile phones and Blackberry devices must be switched off or switched to 'silent'.
  - Telephone calls are not permitted in either hearing room when the Inquiry is in session. Telephone calls may be made in the hearing rooms during breaks in proceedings but must conclude before the hearing resumes. To make calls during the hearing attendees must leave the hearing room.
  - Text-based media is allowed in the Inquiry's hearing rooms and public areas of the RCJ. However, they must not cause a disturbance or distraction to proceedings and are subject to the Chairman's right to remove that privilege if he believes it is harming the administration of justice; **further, [by an order](#) made by the Chairman on 15 October 2015, no transmission of any statement made during the course of a hearing may be made until a period of 60 seconds has elapsed after the statement is made.**
  - Laptops may be used in the Inquiry's hearing rooms and public areas if they do not disturb others but they may not be used to make live recordings of proceedings. Laptops must be battery-powered as power sockets are not available.
  - Personal entertainment devices such as MP3 players and iPods may not be used in either hearing room when the Inquiry hearing is in session.

## UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

- The Inquiry Secretariat reserves the right to eject individuals who fail to comply with these conditions.
- Parking is not available within the RCJ and parking outside the court is extremely limited.
- Further information about the RCJ can be found here: [www.justice.gov.uk/courts/rcj](http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/rcj)

For further information please contact the Inquiry's press officer, Jo Coles:

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**ENDS**