

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 July 2017

PRESS NOTICE

SIR JOHN MITTING IS NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

The Home Secretary [has today announced the retirement](#) due to ill health of Sir Christopher Pitchford the Chairman to the Undercover Policing Inquiry, who was also former Lord Justice of Appeal. The Inquiry team express their thanks to Sir Christopher for his leadership over the past two years, and for his work in establishing the Inquiry on a firm footing and steering it through complex preliminary matters. The Inquiry team send Sir Christopher and his family all their very best wishes.

The Home Secretary has also today announced the appointment of the Undercover Policing Inquiry Panel Member, Sir John Mitting, to the role of Inquiry Chairman. Since the announcement on 31 May 2017 that Sir John would join the Inquiry he has been familiarising himself with the Inquiry's work and he will very shortly issue his first decisions. In the coming weeks, Sir John will issue a 'minded to note' detailing his views on [the issues raised by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), rulings on recent applications for core participant designation, and 'minded to' notes on Special Demonstration Squad anonymity applications.

On his appointment as Chairman Sir John said:

'I join the rest of the Inquiry team in wishing Sir Christopher well, I know I have a hard act to follow. He has set up a strong framework for the Inquiry. I am committed to continuing his approach and echo his words from the start of this Inquiry: "the Inquiry's priority is to discover the truth. This is a public inquiry to which, as the name implies, the public will have access." I am committed to discovering the truth and will endeavour to do so in an open a manner as possible.'

Background

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.

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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

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is constituted under the [Inquiries Act 2005](#).
2. The Inquiry's [terms of reference](#) were announced by the Home Secretary on 16 July 2015.
3. The Inquiry's '[frequently asked questions](#)' document provides more information on the Inquiry more generally, as do [four published update notes](#).
4. The Inquiry's website is www.ucpi.org.uk and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry

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