

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 October 2017

PRESS NOTICE

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and its impact on the Inquiry's work – Hearing date announced

Further hearing dates on anonymity to follow in November

The Chairman of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, Sir John Mitting, has received [submissions](#) from the non-police, non-state core participants further to his ['Minded to' note](#) on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 ('the 1974 Act'). As a result the Inquiry will be holding a hearing in relation to the use of evidence of spent convictions and the proposal in the 'Minded to' note to seek an exemption from section 4(1) of the 1974 Act. [Directions](#) have been issued confirming that the hearing will take place on 1 November 2017.

The Inquiry is also announcing that it expects hearings on anonymity to follow in November, on dates to be announced. This is slightly later than had been anticipated and is as a result of additional time being requested by core participants to provide submissions in response to the Chairman's [3 August 2017 'Minded to' note](#).

The Chairman will use the opportunity offered by his first public hearing on 1 November 2017 to make a statement on the future conduct of the Inquiry. A copy of the statement will be circulated immediately after it has been made, and posted on the Inquiry's website. Following this statement the Chairman will move directly onto matters relating to the 1974 Act. The hearing will take place in Court 76 at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London WC2A 2LL.

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.

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

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

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