

In the matter of Section 19(3) of the Inquiries Act 2005
Application for restriction order by 'Mary'
Ruling

1. I make the following ruling in respect of 'Mary': there will be a restriction order in respect of her real name.

Reasons

2. On 25 January 2018, an unsigned witness statement of that date by 'Mary' was received by the Inquiry. It was accompanied by an application for a restriction order in respect of the real name of 'Mary'. The Inquiry has requested 'Mary' to provide a signed witness statement in her real name. The ruling and order which I make are made on the assumption that she will do so promptly.
3. 'Mary' states that, while at Goldsmith College between 1972 and 1975 she was politically active in the student movement. 'Rick Gibson' (HN297) befriended her and another female student with whom she shared a flat, who was also politically active (in the Troops Out Movement). 'Rick Gibson' showed interest in her political campaign and seemed keen to become more active. In due course, he did so – in the Troops Out Movement.
4. 'Mary' and 'Rick Gibson' entered into a brief sexual relationship. When she discovered that 'Rick Gibson' was not who he claimed to have been (when told soon after by Richard Chessum) she felt embarrassed, upset and used by him. I have no reason to doubt the truthfulness of her account and it is unlikely that it will be challenged in the course of the Inquiry. She falls into the category of deceived women in respect of whom restriction orders have been made. She has valuable evidence to provide to the Inquiry. Further, the evidence which she has provided is relevant to the application for a restriction order in respect of the real name of HN297 about which I am to hear submissions on 5 February 2018. It is desirable that her evidence should be available to the Inquiry for both purposes. It is not necessary that her evidence should be provided publicly in her real name. Requiring her to do so would amount to a disproportionate and unjustified interference in her right to respect for her private life under article 8 (2) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

30 January 2018

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry