

Witness Statement of Christopher Farrimond on behalf of the National Crime Agency, consisting of 66 paragraphs. Signed and dated 27 September 2017.

-Open Gist-

Mr Farrimond is the Deputy Director for Investigations at the NCA and is authorised to make the statement on behalf of the NCA. He has previously made a witness statement on a related topic dated 31 May 2016.

The statement is made in support of closed generic restriction ground K which has four sub-categories [in respect of each the related open ground is: "Sensitive techniques/information that would undermine lawful policing"].

During the course of the NCA's review of its documents that are of potential relevance to or that have already been held by the Inquiry to be both relevant and necessary in the context of its Terms of Reference, many have been identified which include references that would fall within closed ground K. The detail of the sensitive technique/tactic involved has never been publicly confirmed. Therefore if details were to be confirmed, through those documents or otherwise, it would have a profound effect on undercover capability.

It is accepted that there may be some limited knowledge within the public domain about this sensitive technique/tactic; but this is very different to authoritative assertions or official confirmation regarding the same being made public by the NCA in the context of the Inquiry.

The statement sets out detailed examples of various aspects of this sensitive technique/tactic, by reference to successful deployments of undercover officers in relation to different types of serious and organised crime. A significant amount of the NCA's recent undercover operations have involved this sensitive technique/tactic. The use of this sensitive technique/tactic is not confined to the NCA. The technique/tactic continues to prove successful because it is not publicly known. Amongst other harm, revealing the technique/tactic would significantly prejudice the effectiveness of the undercover policing tactic in the future, and in some cases would put particular undercover officers and others at risk of physical harm.