

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 March 2018

PRESS NOTICE

Inquiry publishes generic restriction order documents seeking submissions and evidence in response

The Inquiry is today publishing a set of generic documents intended to assist the Inquiry in putting documents into the public domain as efficiently as possible. In accordance with the [restriction protocol](#) these are the open grounds, which a number of state participants expect to be common to many of their applications to restrict information within documents before they are published by the Inquiry, along with open generic evidence and open submissions provided in support of those grounds.

The aim of the generic documents is to speed up the processing of documents by avoiding the need for applicants to produce repetitive applications for restriction over relevant and necessary documents.

The generic restriction order grounds are broken down into three broad categories:

- Information that would cause harm to people – this might include individuals unconnected to the state;
- Information that would cause harm to policing;
- Other grounds: including, for example, national security; harm to international relations; damage to commercial interests; where there are reporting restrictions in place in other legal proceedings; and sensitive information considered to be of limited relevance/necessity where it would be disproportionate to require a full application to restrict.

The following generic evidence and submissions have been provided by law enforcement bodies to argue their case that some material associated with the use of undercover policing should not be published on those grounds:

- Witness statement of Chief Constable Alan Pughsley on behalf of the National Police Chiefs' Council, dated 14 February 2018;
- Witness statement of Geoff Bluemel on behalf of the National Crime Agency, dated 28 September 2017;
- Gisted witness statement of Christopher Farrimond on behalf of the National Crime Agency, dated 27 September 2017;

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- Witness statement of 'Cairo' on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service, dated 4 August 2017
- Generic submissions on behalf of the National Police Chiefs' Council, dated 22 January 2018, along with accompanying chart;
- Generic submissions on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service, dated 14 February 2018.

Alongside the generic documents, the Inquiry is also publishing a worked example of the generic grounds for restriction being applied. One of the example documents, the [Special Demonstration Squad 'Tradecraft Manual'](#), shows how the generic grounds for restriction can be applied while still enabling more material than ever before to be placed in the public domain.

The Inquiry's remit is uniquely sensitive and its overriding task is to get to the truth; it will always be rigorous and objective. The documents published today set out the framework for applying the principles set out in the 3 May 2016 Ruling on [Restriction Orders: Legal Principles and Approach](#).

An index listing all of the documents that the Inquiry has published today can be found [here](#).

Publication of the generic documents set out above fulfils a commitment given by the Inquiry in its [restriction order protocol](#) to provide Core Participants and the media with an opportunity to respond to the open generic documents. Responses are sought from core participants and the media in relation to both the generic documents and the example documents by **4pm on 19 April 2018**.

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. The work of the Inquiry will fall into three modules:

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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

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The [restriction order protocol](#)
2. [The Chairman's 20 November 2017 statement](#)
3. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is constituted under the [Inquiries Act 2005](#).
4. The Inquiry's [terms of reference](#) were announced by the Home Secretary on 16 July 2015.
5. The Inquiry's [frequently asked questions](#) document provides more information on the Inquiry more generally, as do [published update notes](#).
6. The Inquiry's website is www.ucpi.org.uk and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry

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