

## In the matter of Section 19(3) of the Inquiries Act 2005

### Application for restriction order in respect of the real and cover names of HN15

#### Ruling

1. The application for a restriction order in respect of real and cover name is refused.

#### Reasons

2. Full reasons are set out in a closed note dated 20 December 2017. In summary they are as follows. But for two considerations, I would have made a restriction order in respect of both real and cover name. The two considerations are:
  - i. The cover name of HN15 was publicly identified in February 2011 and the real name in a Guardian article in 2013.
  - ii. HN15 now admits an intimate relationship with an activist known to the public as "Alison".
3. In those circumstances, the making of a restriction order in respect of either real or cover name would serve no purpose. Further, Alison is entitled to have the real name of HN15 confirmed to her. To the extent that there are differences in the account of the relationship between HN15 and Alison, they can and should be publicly explored. Any increase in risk to the safety of HN15 created by a refusal to make a restriction order in respect of real or cover name is, in my judgement, at worst, marginal. It does not outweigh the public interest in getting to the truth about the deployment of HN15 and the admitted relationship with Alison.

11 April 2018

Sir John Mitting  
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry