

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER
POLICING**

**OPEN APPLICATION FOR A RESTRICTION ORDER (ANONYMITY)
RE: HN112
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE MPS**

Restriction Order Sought

1. The MPS apply for a restriction order over the real identity of HN112 to last indefinitely in the following terms:
 - (1) No direct or indirect disclosure of HN112's real name (including any description or image capable of identifying HN112) beyond the Chairman and the Inquiry team;
 - (2) The Commissioner reserves the right to make further submission as to the effective operation of this Restriction Order during the course of the Inquiry.

Legal Basis for the Application

2. The Application is made on the following statutory basis:
 - (1) s.17(3) of the Inquiries Act 2005: the duty to act with fairness in the procedure or conduct of an inquiry
 - (2) s.19(3)(a) of the Inquiries Act 2005 and Article 8 ECHR (the right to private and family life).
 - (3) s.19(3)(b) read together with s.19(4)(b)-(d) of the Inquiries Act 2005: conducive to the Inquiry fulfilling its terms of reference or necessary in the public interest, having regard in particular to the matters mentioned in subsection (4).
3. The applicable legal principles have been comprehensively set out in the Chairman's Restriction Order: Legal Principles and Approach Ruling ("the Principles Ruling") of 3 May 2016. Regard has also been had to the restriction order rulings and minded to notes issued since that date.

Evidence in Support

4. This application is supplemented by evidence which is not to be disseminated further than the Chairman and the Inquiry team:
 - a. closed Risk Assessment;

- b. An expert report (to be provided separately by the Designated Lawyer representing HN112).

Reasons

Section 17

5. Application of the statutory and common law principles of fairness require that the real identity of HN112 is not disclosed. The considerations which apply are highlighted below in relation to s. 19(3)(a) and/or 19(3)(b) and s.19(4).

Section 19(3)(a) and Articles 2/3, 8

6. A restriction order protecting HN112's identity is required in order for the Inquiry to meet its duty under the Human Rights Act 1998 not to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right. The Convention right in issue is Article 8.
7. Disclosure of HN112's real name would amount to an unjustified and/or disproportionate interference with HN112's right to private and family life. In particular, the objective effect of disclosure and the level of risk posed by this interference with HN112's private and family life is set out at §19 of the Risk Assessment and in the expert report at §4.8.3. It is reasonable to infer that there would be some public interest in HN112 by virtue of HN112's status as a former UCO.

Section 19(3)(b) and s19(4)

8. The Chairman is invited to find that a Restriction Order protecting HN112's real identity is conducive to the Inquiry fulfilling its Terms of Reference or is necessary in the public interest having regard in particular to the factors set out at s.19(4) of the Act read together with the Chairman's approach at [152] of the Principles Ruling:

"...when considering whether to make an order restricting disclosure of any relevant particular piece of information on public interest grounds I will be required to:

- (1) identify the public interest in non-disclosure;*
- (2) assess the risk and level of harm to the public interest that would follow disclosure of that information;*
- (3) identify the public interest in disclosure;*
- (4) assess the risk and level of harm to the public interest that would follow non-disclosure of that information;*

(5) make in respect of that information a fact sensitive assessment of the position at which the public interest balance should rest”.

The public interest in non-disclosure of real identity

9. HN112 was attached to the SDS for a period in 2007-2008 and any infiltration was superficial or nil.
10. Detail concerning the risk of harm to HN122 are set out at §15.4 and §19 of the Risk Assessment and §4.8.3 of the medical report. It is in the public interest for HN112’s real identity to be restricted on the basis that it would avoid or reduce the risk of these identified harms.
11. HN112 has respected the confidentiality of HN112’s work and has relied on anonymity as a source of protection and security.

The public interest in disclosure of real identity

12. The MPS appreciates that the public interest in openness is a factor which weighs against the making of a Restriction Order in HN112’s case. However, MPS submits that the real name will not assist the Inquiry in fulfilling its Terms of Reference or assist Core Participants or witnesses who would not have known HN112 by HN112’s real name.

Where the public interest balance lies

13. The MPS has considered the Chairman’s Principles Ruling and has had particular regard to the importance of openness in the Public Inquiry.
14. In all the circumstances, the MPS makes this application for a Restriction Order over HN112’s real name on the bases of fairness, and to avoid a risk of harm, and to avoid a risk of unjustified and/or disproportionate interference with HN112’s right to private and family life and the private and family life of HN112’s family. The MPS submits such an application is in the public interest and conducive to the Inquiry’s terms of reference.

MPS, Department of Legal Services

26 February 2018