

IN THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESTRICTION ORDER

BY:

'Ellie'

Core Participant

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STATEMENT OF HARRIET WISTRICH

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Name: Harriet Wistrich  
Address: Birnberg Peirce Ltd  
14 Inverness Street  
London NW1 7HJ  
Age: Over 21

1. I make this statement in support of an application on behalf of the above core participant (CP) in support of her application for a Restriction Order (RO) under the provisions of 19(3)(a) and (b) of the Inquiries Act 2005. I am a solicitor employed by Birnberg Peirce and Partners and one of the CP's Recognised Legal Representatives.
2. 'Ellie' has been designated as a Core Participant on account of her long-term intimate sexual relationship with an undercover police officer, who she knew as James Straven.
3. The exposure of James Straven as an undercover officer has impacted on 'Ellie' significantly and she feels very emotionally vulnerable. She has not told most people in her life about the discovery, including her family. She wants to control if and when she informs people and she feels very distressed at the thought of those close to her to finding out through publicity relating to the Inquiry. Additionally 'Ellie' works as a [REDACTED] and regularly comes into contact with the police through her work. She is very concerned that her employment could be negatively affected if she was publically identified

through the Inquiry as someone who was spied upon by the police. She is also concerned that exposure could lead to her inaccurately being associated with animal rights activity which her employers could also view negatively.

4. Clearly, as set out in the application for anonymity, there is a strong argument as to the CP's right to protection of their privacy under Article 8 ECHR. Equally, there is an arguable right to anonymity under the provisions of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992, by virtue of 'Ellie' being a victim of sexual offences. Finally publication of her identity is not necessary to achieve any of the aims of the public inquiry.

I believe the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

Signed: 

Dated: 11/9/18