

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

In the matter of Section 19(3) of the Inquiries Act 2005 Applications for restriction orders by “Ellie”, “Jessica” and “Lizzie” Ruling

“Ellie”

1. I have today designated “Ellie” as a core participant in category [H]. I do not yet have a witness statement from her, but have read a witness statement by Harriet Wistrich of 11 September 2018, the truth and accuracy of which I accept. She says that “Ellie” feels emotionally vulnerable as a result of the impact on her of the disclosure of HN16 as an undercover officer. She wishes to control information about the relationship within and outside her family. She also has a concern about the impact on her employment of disclosure of the circumstances in which the relationship occurred.
2. These are highly personal matters and she is entitled to exercise unfettered control over them. Her evidence is likely to be of significant interest to the Inquiry and it is important that she should feel able to give it fully and frankly. The making of a restriction order in respect of her real name should both protect her personal integrity and enhance the evidence which she can give. Disclosure of her real name is not necessary to permit the Inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference. The case for making a restriction order in respect of her real name is compelling.
3. I therefore make a restriction order in respect of her real name.

“Jessica”

4. On 1 August 2017, I designated “Jessica” a core participant in category [H]. Her claim that she was the subject of a deceitful sexual relationship with HN2 (Andrew Coles) is disputed by him. Public oral evidence will be required from both to permit the Inquiry to get to the truth. I do not yet have a witness statement from her, but do have a witness statement signed by Harriet Wistrich on 26 July 2018, in which she describes “Jessica’s” emotional vulnerability and reluctance to tell her family about what occurred. I accept what she has said.
5. Until “Jessica” and HN2 have given evidence, I can reach no final view about the impact of events on her. I am, however, satisfied that, for the protection of her personal integrity and to ensure that the evidence which she can give to the Inquiry is as cogent as it can be, it is necessary to make a restriction order in respect of her real name. I therefore make that order.

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“Lizzie”

6. “Lizzie” was designated a core participant in category [H] on 10 May 2017, on the basis of her intimate relationship with Mike Chitty during his deployment as an undercover officer. I do not know whether he admits that such a relationship occurred or denies it. Nor do I have a statement from her. I do, however, have a statement by Harriet Wistrich dated 21 August 2018, the truth of which I accept. It includes some detail about “Lizzie’s” past life. She is said to be a very private person who finds the Inquiry process disturbing and wishes to avoid anything which will have an adverse impact on her mental state.
7. I am satisfied that, for the protection of her personal integrity and well-being, and possibly mental health, and to ensure that the evidence which she can give to the Inquiry is as cogent as it can be, it is necessary to make a restriction order in respect of her real name. I therefore make that order.

10 October 2018

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry