

Core participants

Ruling 22

Sue Dickens

1. Sue Dickens applies to be designated a core participant on account of her role in the protests against the export of live animals from Shoreham between the end of 1994 and June 1995 and as editor of “the Shoreham Protester”, a publication which endured as “The Protester” for about 17 years. She also became involved in other animal rights campaigns. She was arrested in 2001 and prosecuted, unsuccessfully, for conspiracy to commit violent disorder at a hunt kennels. She submits that she played a direct and significant role in matters of significant interest to the Inquiry.
2. She has not, however, given any reason for delaying the making of her application for 3 years beyond the deadline originally set by Sir Christopher Pitchford, 18 September 2015. Further, the Inquiry has already designated a number of core participants engaged in animal rights protests. It is not apparent from her application why her name needs to be added to the list of those already designated, to permit the Inquiry to investigate undercover policing in that field. She does not claim to have interacted with anyone believed by her to have been deployed in an undercover role, despite the publication by the Inquiry and/or by activist researchers of the cover names of confirmed or alleged undercover officers.
3. For the reasons given, I decline to designate her a core participant. The Inquiry will keep her application under review and may reconsider it if it discovers documentary evidence of interaction between her and an undercover officer.

10 October 2018

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry