

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

Application for a restriction order by 'Sara'

Ruling

'Sara'

1. I have today designated 'Sara' as a core participant in category [H]. The basis of designation is that HN16 conducted a sexual relationship with her in his cover name, while deployed as an undercover officer. No statement from her has yet been made to the Inquiry, but I do have a witness statement made by Harriet Wistrich dated 22 October 2018, the truth of which I accept. In particular, I accept that the fact that the relationship was conducted by a man in an identity not his own came as a profound shock when it was disclosed to her in August by the Inquiry. She is entitled to adopt her own course in dealing with the issue without her privacy being further invaded. Publication of her real name is not necessary to permit the Inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference and would be an unjustified interference in her right to respect for private and family life under Article 8(2) of the European Convention on Human Rights. I shall accordingly make a restriction order in respect of her real name.

25 October 2018

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry