

IN THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESTRICTION

ORDER BY:

'Sara'

Core Participant

STATEMENT OF HARRIET WISTRICH

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. 'Sara' 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 'Sara' significantly and she feels very emotionally vulnerable, increasingly so as the reality sinks in. Having only found out a month ago, she needs time to process the betrayal. She has not told most people in her life about the discovery, including family members [REDACTED]. She wants to control of 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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] . [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] . She is very concerned that her employment could therefore be negatively affected. Also, that if she was publicly identified through the Inquiry as someone who was spied upon by the police that this exposure could lead to her being associated with animal rights activity [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] .

4. Clearly, as set out in the application for anonymity, there is a strong argument as to the CP's right to protection of her privacy under Article 8 ECHR. Sara is a very private person and does not want to be in the spotlight or contacted by the press. She feels strongly that she is in this situation solely because of a violation of her rights of privacy by the State and she does not want those rights to be further eroded. Equally, there is an arguable right to anonymity under the provisions of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992, by virtue of 'Sara' 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:

[REDACTED]

Dated:

.....22/10/18.....