

Core participants Ruling 30

Richard, Audrey and Nathan Adams (Rolan Adams Campaign)

1. Richard and Audrey Adams applied in 2015 to be designated as core participants. They did so on the basis that they believed that they and their family campaign on behalf of their son Rolan Adams (who was murdered in a racist attack in February 1991) may have been targeted by undercover officers deployed by the Special Demonstration Squad. In his ruling dated 21 October 2015, Sir Christopher Pitchford concluded that he was not able, on the information then provided to him, to conclude that they played or may have played a direct and significant role in the subject matter of the Inquiry. He said that the applications would be kept under review.
2. In the course of reading Special Demonstration Squad intelligence files produced in the early 1990s, I have encountered reporting on the Rolan Adams campaign, but nothing to suggest that it was the direct target of infiltration. Special Demonstration Squad interest in it appears to have been prompted by the participation, actual or attempted, in the campaign by groups which had been infiltrated. It is of significant interest to the Inquiry, for two reasons: (i) it is one of a number of justice campaigns reported on by undercover officers, allegedly because of attempts by infiltrated groups to exploit the campaigns for the purposes of the groups. The reason given for such reporting must be tested. The issue is of some importance. The evidence of those leading one such campaign, which was reported on may assist in getting to the truth of the explanation; (ii) the issues raised by the Rolan Adams campaign and its name featured prominently in the regular disturbances in the early 1990s outside the British National Party bookshop/headquarters in Welling. The evidence of the applicants may assist in determining the justification for Special Demonstration Squad infiltration of groups which participated in the disturbances.

17 July 2019

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry