

Core participants Ruling 35

Christabel Gurney

1. Christabel Gurney applied on 1 May 2020 to be designated as a core participant. The basis of her application is that she was a participant in the affairs of three groups which were infiltrated by Special Demonstration Squad officers: Stop the 70s Tour (1969 – 1970), the Dambusters Mobilising Committee (1969 – 1973) and the Anti-Apartheid Movement (1969 – 1994); and that, on 12 May 1972, she was arrested with 14 others while attempting to prevent the departure of a coach carrying the British Lions team from the Star and Garter hotel Richmond to Heathrow.
2. The Inquiry is already undertaking an investigation of the circumstances of the arrests on 12 May 1972, has designated two of those arrested, Professor Rosenhead and Ernest Rodker, as core participants and has obtained witness statements from them. If the applicant is willing to provide a witness statement about her participation in those events to the Inquiry, it will seek to obtain one from her. One of the issues which the Inquiry is investigating is whether or not the subsequent conviction of 13 of the 14 arrested should be referred to the panel set up to consider miscarriages of justice arising from or during the deployment of undercover officers. It will take into account any evidence provided by her about the issue. If it decides to refer the convictions to the panel, her conviction will be included in the reference. It is not necessary for her to be designated as a core participant for any of that to happen.
3. The remaining grounds of her application do not justify her designation as a core participant.

Stop the 70s Tour and Dambusters Mobilising Committee

4. She is identified, with a number of others, as a "leading personality" in the Stop the 70s Tour in a Special Branch report dated 15 December 1969. The report is not by a Special Demonstration Squad officer or manager. Lord Hain has already provided a detailed and helpful statement about the Stop the 70s Tour and its plans, sufficient to inform a judgement about this aspect of the deployment of HN135 and HN336, the two undercover officers who reported on the Stop the 70s Tour. If he is willing to allow her to see a copy of his statement and she has anything that she wishes to add to it, the Inquiry will gladly receive it.

Anti-Apartheid Movement

5. She has produced three reports, dated 8 October 1983, 25 May 1984 and 2 June 1984, about the Anti-Apartheid Movement, in one of which she is named as a member of the national committee. The Anti-Apartheid Movement was not infiltrated by the Special Demonstration Squad in 1983 and 1984. The reports are not Special Demonstration Squad reports or based on a Special Demonstration Squad intelligence.

Karen O'Toole

6. By emails dated 10 February and 29 May 2020 Karen O'Toole has demanded to be made a core participant. She has not sought the assistance of a lawyer, because of her belief that there is a conflict of interest between her and those to whom she has been referred by the solicitor coordinating recognised legal representatives of non-state core participants. Perhaps in consequence, she has not set out, in a manner capable of being understood, the facts on which she relies to demonstrate that she comes within the requirements of paragraph 5 (2) of the Inquiries Rules 2006. Nor has she explained why she made no application to be designated as a core participant until now. I will not in consequence designate her as a core participant.

9 June 2020

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry