

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE CHAIR'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF TRANCHE 1 EVIDENCE HEARINGS

1. The Chair has invited core participants' views about the proposals made in his Statement of 29 May 2020 concerning the manner in which the Inquiry proposes to receive opening statements and evidence in tranche 1.
2. These are the submissions of the Secretary of State as core participant in the Inquiry.
3. The Undercover Policing Inquiry, in common with other major public inquiries taking place in England and Wales, has had to contend with the significant restrictions and difficulties arising from the Covid-19 virus. The postponed tranche 1 hearings should take place as soon as reasonably possible taking into account these restrictions and difficulties and the particular circumstances of this Inquiry.
4. The Secretary of State does not object to the use of "virtual" or "remote" hearings in the context of this Inquiry, if such hearings can take place in a manner that ensures fairness for all concerned in the Inquiry process and where they also result in efficient proceedings. She makes no submission in relation to the possibility of live streaming evidence to a room under the control of the Inquiry, as raised in paragraph 8 of the Statement.
5. The Chair makes clear that the proposals set out in his Statement are limited to opening statements and evidence in tranche 1 and *"It is not intended to be a template for future tranches"*. These submissions similarly are confined to tranche 1 proceedings.

NICHOLAS GRIFFIN QC

25 June 2020