

Core participants Ruling 37

Michael Chant

1. By letter from his solicitors dated 9 November 2020 Michael Chant applies to be designated as a core participant. He acknowledges that his application is belated. As my predecessor and I have made clear repeatedly, good reasons must be advanced to explain the delay. The explanation offered on behalf of Mr Chant is that, until approached by the Undercover Research Group in July 2020, he was “not fully aware of the UCPI”. I infer from this unparticularised statement that he was aware of it, but did not think it worthwhile to apply in 2015 or 2016 to be designated a core participant.
2. He is the general secretary of a small Marxist-Leninist party and a member of its immediate predecessor, which were infiltrated successively by HN13 and HN19. He has “only passing memories” of HN13, but remembers HN19. He speaks of one incident involving HN19 in which, during a demonstration against the National Front, HN19 encouraged members of his group to try to break through police lines. If he is willing to provide it, the Inquiry will seek evidence from him about that incident; but it is not necessary for him to provide it that he should be designated a core participant.
3. It is very unlikely that he will be the subject of criticism by the Inquiry and there is no reason to believe at present that he will be the subject of personal criticism by HN19 or by any other former police officer.
4. It is not necessary for him to be designated a core participant for him to provide, if he chooses to do so, an explanation of the politics of the parties to which he belonged.
5. For all of those reasons, I refuse his application to be designated a core participant.

Michelle Nicholas

6. By an undated e-mail received recently, Michelle Nicholas applies to be designated a core participant. The grounds on which she applies do not suggest that she has been the subject of infiltration or reporting by an undercover unit of a police force in England and Wales or that the actions of any member of such a unit have had any impact on her. Nor has she explained her delay in applying. I refuse her application.

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

HN2, HN18 and HN78

7. HN2, HN18 and HN78 should be designated core participants.

18 December 2020

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry