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Diane Langford

1. By a letter from her solicitors dated 18 December 2020 Diane Langford applies to be designated as a core participant in category K. She is the widow of the late Abhimanyu Manchanda, a target of undercover deployments and reporting in the late 1960s and 1970s, as a prominent and active Maoist. Groups in which she played an active part, in particular the Women's Liberation Front (WLF), were also the subject of infiltration and reporting. She knew HN 45, in his undercover identity, well and has evidence to give about the circumstances in which his deployment ended. She can speak from personal knowledge of the aims, attitudes and intentions of the women's groups to which she belonged and has evidence to give relevant to the justification for the infiltration of the WLF.
2. She has a direct and significant interest in some of the important issues which the inquiry is investigating. I welcome her stated willingness to assist the inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference by providing evidence about them. If she had applied in 2015 or 2016 to be designated as a core participant, I have no doubt that my predecessor would have acceded to her application.
3. I am satisfied that she did not then appreciate the extent to which undercover officers had interacted with and reported on her. She was approached for information by a non-state researcher in January and May 2018. I am satisfied that, for compelling personal reasons which, to protect her legitimate privacy rights, I do not intend to set out in this note, she could not then respond to that approach. In consequence, it was not until the inquiry sent to her a package of documents which identified her as the subject of undercover reporting on 13 October 2020 that she was able to seek legal advice upon her position and to decide to apply to be designated as a core participant. Minor difficulties, which are not her fault or that of her solicitors, have caused a short delay in making the application.
4. For the reasons explained above, I will designate her as a core participant in category K.
5. The documents in which she was named which are relevant to T1P1 have already been sent to her. No search has been undertaken to identify those in which she may be named which are relevant to T1P2. In current circumstances, the inquiry's ability to undertake such a search is constrained. The end product

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may be imperfect. A request for a witness statement under rule 9 of the Inquiries Rules will be made once the search has been undertaken.

6. She will require the assistance of a legal representative to participate in the inquiry- in particular to provide a witness statement. I have been provided with information about her means which I accept. They are not such that it would be reasonable to expect her to bear its cost. I designate Kate Thomas as her recognised legal representative on the same terms as apply to other core participants represented by Birnberg Peirce and make an award of costs in her favour.

23 December 2020

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry