

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

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Application for a restriction order by ‘Madeleine’

‘Madeleine’

1. By letter dated 23 December 2020 from her solicitors, “Madeleine” applies to be designated as a core participant in Category [H]. She joined the Walthamstow branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in the mid-1970s. This branch of the SWP was infiltrated by HN354 (“Vince Miller”) between the beginning of 1977 and September 1979. She claims to have had an intimate sexual relationship with him during (approximately) the last year of his deployment of some moment as far as she was concerned, which ended with his sudden departure. He has admitted to four fleeting sexual relationships in his cover identity during his deployment, two of them with female members of the Walthamstow branch of the SWP. One of them was “Madeleine”. His version of their relationship is different from hers.
2. She clearly has a significant interest in one of the matters which the Inquiry is investigating: the occurrence and nature of sexual relationships between undercover officers and activists and what, if anything, was known and done about them by managers of the units which deployed them. It is implicit in her applications that she is willing to provide evidence to the Inquiry about her relationship with HN354 and I make this decision on that premise. It is also possible that she will be able to provide evidence about other significant issues as well: the nature and activities of the Walthamstow branch of the SWP; and the part which its members and/or HN354 played in two events of note which occurred during his deployment – the Grunwicks dispute and “the battle of Lewisham”.
3. The inquiry traced “Madeleine” earlier this year and provided her with information about HN354 in August. She was unable to obtain legal assistance until the inquiry put her in touch with Birnberg Peirce in the week beginning 14 December 2020. I am satisfied that she has acted without undue delay since she became aware of the circumstances which have prompted her application.
4. For those reasons, I will designate her as a core participant in Category [H]. The Inquiry will also seek evidence from her about the other issues mentioned.

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5. Part of the evidence which she can give concerns an intensely private matter. She is entitled to respect for her privacy. I will make a restriction order in respect of her real name. She will be known in any documents published by the inquiry or evidence given to it as "Madeleine".
6. She cannot be expected to participate in the Inquiry or to provide evidence to it without the assistance of a legal representative. I will designate Kate Thomas of Birnberg Peirce as her recognised legal representative on the same terms as those of her other clients who are core participants.
7. I have been provided with information about her means in the same letter as that in which she applied to be designated as a core participant, which I accept. She is, by the standards of many people, well placed financially. I am, however, satisfied that it would not be reasonable to expect her to bear the cost of assisting the Inquiry in the manner and about the issues set out above. I will make an award of costs in her favour.

06 January 2021

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry