

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY
TRANCHE 1 PHASE 3
OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

1. This opening statement is made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the “Home Secretary”) as one of the Inquiry’s core participants, and she represents the interests of the Home Office at this Inquiry.¹ The Home Secretary welcomes the invitation to make this opening statement at the outset of the Module 1, Tranche 1, Phase 3 hearings.
2. As a core participant, the Home Secretary continues to engage fully with the work of the Inquiry. In particular, and as stated in the Home Secretary’s opening statements of 22 October 2020 and 14 April 2021, the Home Office has undertaken an extensive electronic and hard copy disclosure exercise, both in response to specific requests from the Inquiry and on a wider voluntary basis.
3. Turning to the evidence and issues to be considered during the Tranche 1 Phase 3 hearings, the Home Secretary notes that the Inquiry does not intend to call evidence from any Home Office witnesses. Accordingly, the Home Secretary has nothing specific to add, at this stage, to her two previous opening statements. For present purposes, the Home Secretary would wish simply to reiterate that the Inquiry has her full cooperation as a core participant.

25 April 2022

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¹ The Home Office in addition has a role as sponsoring department of this Inquiry. That sponsorship function has been segregated from the core participant function since the start of the Inquiry in 2015, as noted in the Chair’s Opening Remarks of 28 July 2015, paragraph 25 <https://www.ucpi.org.uk/publications/chairmans-opening-statement-pitchford/>