

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

In the matter of section 19(3) of the Inquiries Act 2005

Applications for restriction orders in respect of the real and cover names of officers of the Special Operations Squad and the Special Demonstrations Squad, and those connected with these squads

'Minded to' note 16

1. HN273's real name may not be published.

Reasons

2. HN273 joined the Metropolitan Police Service Special Projects Team in 2008 after the closure of the Special Demonstration Squad ('SDS') and was the author of the "SDS closing report" dated 25 June 2009. The report was based on documents then contained in the SDS safe and made recommendations for the future conduct of undercover operations. It is of at least historical interest and is relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference. For it to be considered and, to the extent which it can be, published, it is unnecessary for its author to be identified.
3. In a psychiatric report dated 31 August 2021 Professor Fox has expressed his diagnosis that HN273 suffers from mixed anxiety and depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. His unequivocal conclusion is that if HN273 is required to give evidence to the Inquiry other than anonymously the health of HN273 will deteriorate and would give rise to a risk of serious harm to HN273. I have no reason to question Professor Fox's opinion.
4. Given that it is not necessary for the real name of HN273 to be published for the evidence, whether written or oral to be capable of being understood by the Inquiry and/or questioned in the event of dispute, nothing material would be lost by restricting publication of the real name. In those circumstances, the potentially severe interference with HN273's rights under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights which would be caused by publication of the real name would not be justified.

28 February 2023

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry