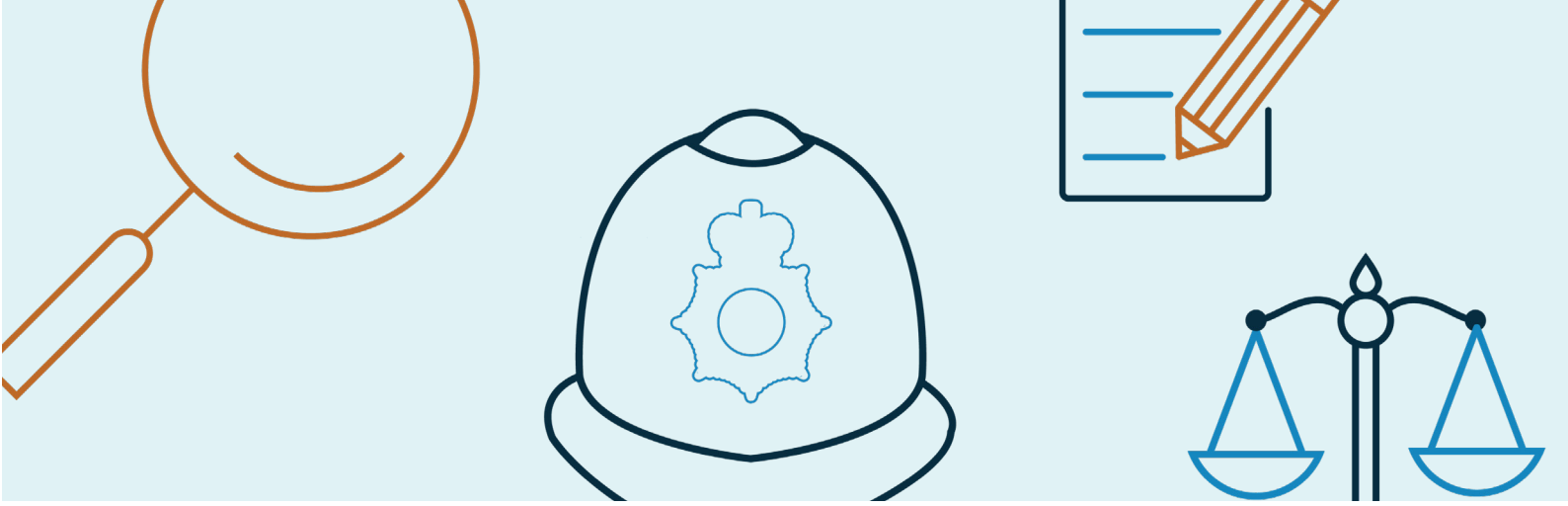




Twelfth Update Note

JULY 2023

UNDERCOVER
POLICING
INQUIRY



Introduction

This is the Undercover Policing Inquiry’s twelfth update note.

Inquiry update notes provide a snapshot of the Inquiry’s recent, current and planned work in getting to the truth of undercover policing and delivering recommendations for the future. In addition, the Inquiry publishes all information on its website, updates on progress via its Twitter account and regularly meets and corresponds with core participants and members of the media.

In this update note, you will find:

- An outline of activity since July 2022 – including the Inquiry’s primary publications and announcements;
- Updates on Inquiry activity and progress, including the publication of the [Tranche I Interim Report](#) in June 2023;
- Key statistics on anonymity applications and other parts of the Inquiry’s work; and
- An updated timeline of the Inquiry’s key milestones.

This year, the Inquiry completed its Tranche I investigations, with closing statements taking place in February 2023 and the Tranche I Interim Report published on 29 June 2023.

Recordings and transcripts for the Tranche I closing statements are available on the [hearing day pages](#) on the Inquiry website. During Tranche I, the Inquiry received evidence, either in writing (and/or orally) from 56 surviving former undercover officers, 22 of their managers and 21 members of the public with whom they interacted with during 1968-1982. There were 29 days of evidential hearings from which evidence was heard from 41 witnesses. Over 3,400 pieces of [evidence](#) were published on the website. The evidential files include witness statements, reporting from undercover officers on the groups and events they infiltrated; annual reports from the Chief Inspector of the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) to the Special Branch Commander; and correspondence between Special Branch, the Home Office and the Security Service.

The publication of the [Tranche I Interim Report](#) was a significant milestone in the progress of the Inquiry in which the Chair set out his assessment of the history of the Special Demonstration Squad between 1968 and 1982 and draws conclusions about the purposes for which it was set up and continued and the justification for doing so.

The Inquiry also made its second referrals for suspected miscarriages of justice. The first, was made in June 2021 and the second in July 2023. The first related to HN298 “Michael Scott” and a May 1972 incident at the Star and Garter hotel in Richmond. The convictions of three individuals – Christabel Gurney, Ernest Rodker and Jonathan Rosenhead – were overturned by the Appeals Court in January 2023. The second referral relates to the deployment of HN13 “Desmond Barry Loader”, his infiltration of the East London branch of the Communist Party of England and two incidents in 1977 and 1978 and will now be assessed by the dedicated Miscarriage of justice panel set up by the Home Office.

Good progress has also been made with the investigations on other tranches which have been taking place concurrently.

Tranche 2 hearings are planned to take place in 2024. The Inquiry’s Tranche 2 team are focusing on “Special Demonstration Squad officers and managers and those affected by deployments (1983-1992)” and have completed their investigation into over 30 undercover deployments and are currently investigating the work of SDS managers and administrators during 1983-1992. Rule 9 requests for civilian witness statements are also being prepared in order to create a comprehensive hearing bundle and schedule for hearings in 2024.

The Inquiry’s Tranche 3 team have made considerable progress focusing on “Special Demonstration Squad officers and managers and those affected by deployments (1993-2007)”. All Tranche 3 Rule 9 requests for statements from undercover officers and witness packs have been sent out and the Inquiry is beginning to receive witness statements back.

Tranche 4 investigations team have been focusing on “National Public Order Intelligence Unit officers and managers and those affected by deployments”. Rule 9 requests and witness packs are being prepared and despatched, and witness statements from undercover officers are beginning to be received.

The Inquiry has also now re-commenced its investigations into Tranche 5 “Other undercover policing and those affected by deployments”.

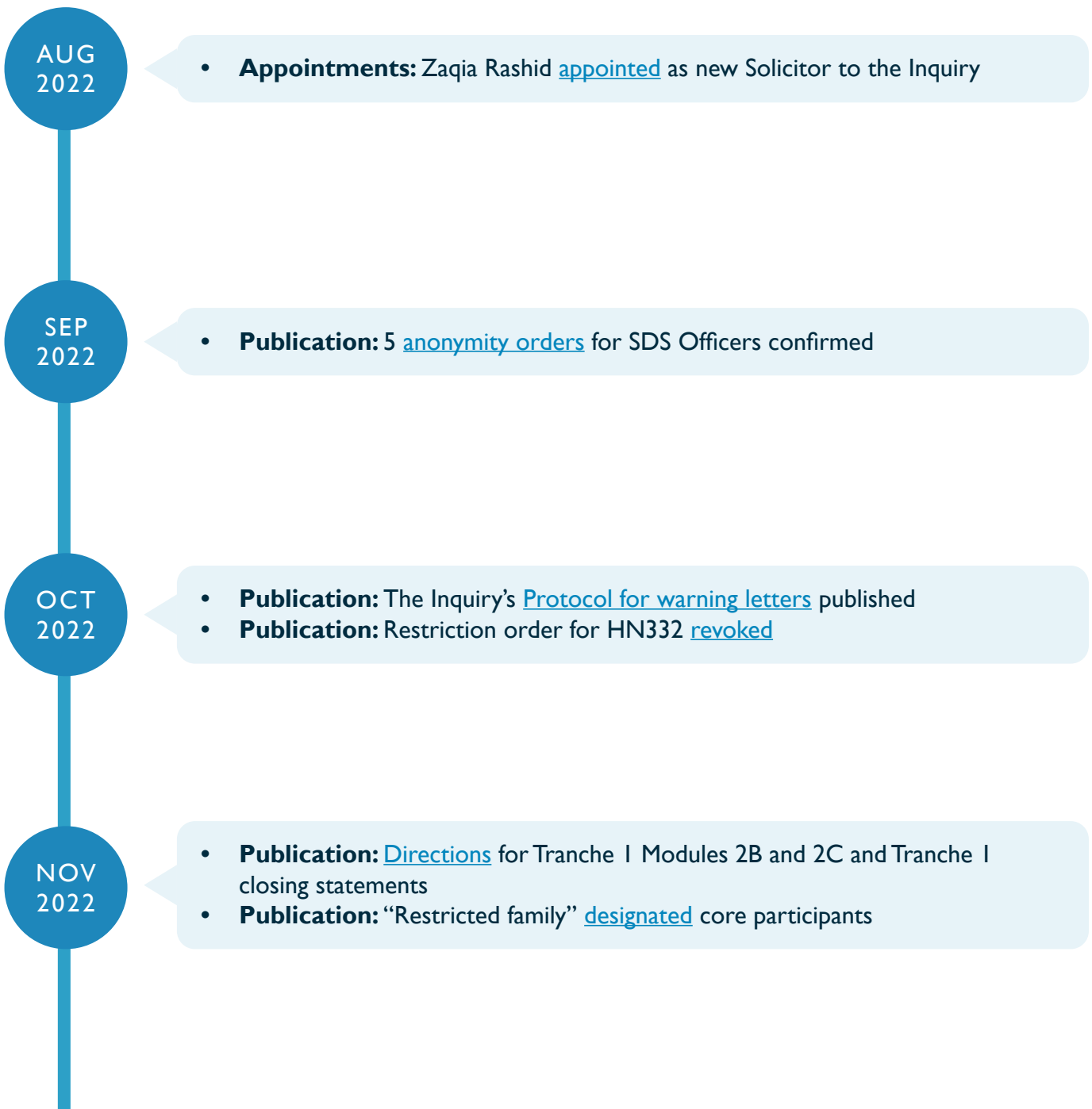
Once all Tranches and Modules have been investigated, the Inquiry will publish its final report. This will cover 55 years of Undercover Policing since 1968 and draw upon the accounts of witnesses and evidence collected to examine the contribution undercover policing has made to tackling crime, how it was and is supervised and regulated, and its effect on individuals involved.

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Outline of activity since July 2022



FEB
2023

- **Hearings:** Tranche I [closing statements](#) heard between Monday 20 and Wednesday 22 February
- **Publication:** [Minded-to note](#) on updates on Special Demonstration Squad anonymity orders

APR
2023

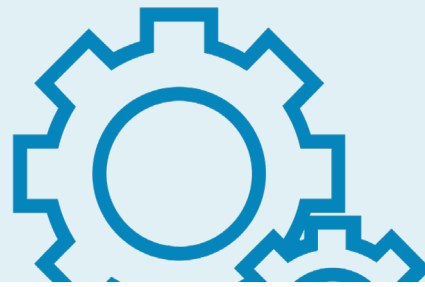
- **Publication:** “Gabriella” [designated](#) a core participant, and “Walter” a Civilian Witness and [anonymity orders](#) confirmed

JUN
2023

- **Publication:** Publication: The anonymity order for “Jane” was revoked at her request
- **Publication:** Tranche I interim report published

JUL
2023

- **Publication:** Second Miscarriages of Justice referral made



Overview of Inquiry activities and progress

Evidence hearings

The Inquiry is considering the undercover policing activities of officers and managers and those affected by deployments in Tranches 1-5.

Tranche 1

Tranche 1 was split into three phases of open hearings. Evidence hearings for Phase 1 started in November 2020, when the Inquiry heard from undercover officers and non-state witnesses about the SDS – which was initially called the Special Operations Squad – between July 1968 and the end of 1972 approximately. The Phase 2 evidence hearings started in April 2021 and focused on SDS undercover policing operations that started between 1970 and 1979. The evidence hearings for Phase 3, where the Inquiry primarily heard from SDS managers (1968-1982), took place in May 2022.

Additionally, five former SDS undercover police officers from the Tranche 1 era gave oral evidence at a closed hearing; five attributed transcripts from the hearing together with some unattributed excerpts have been published on the Inquiry website. The five officers are [HN 21](#), [HN 41](#), [HN 109](#), [HN 302](#) and [HN 341](#).

The Inquiry also examined the management and oversight of undercover officers, including their selection, training, supervision, care after the end

of an undercover deployment, and the legal and regulatory framework within which undercover policing was carried out. As part of Tranche 1 investigations, the Inquiry included 7 senior managers in the Police chain of command, 4 Home Office and 1 Security Service officials.

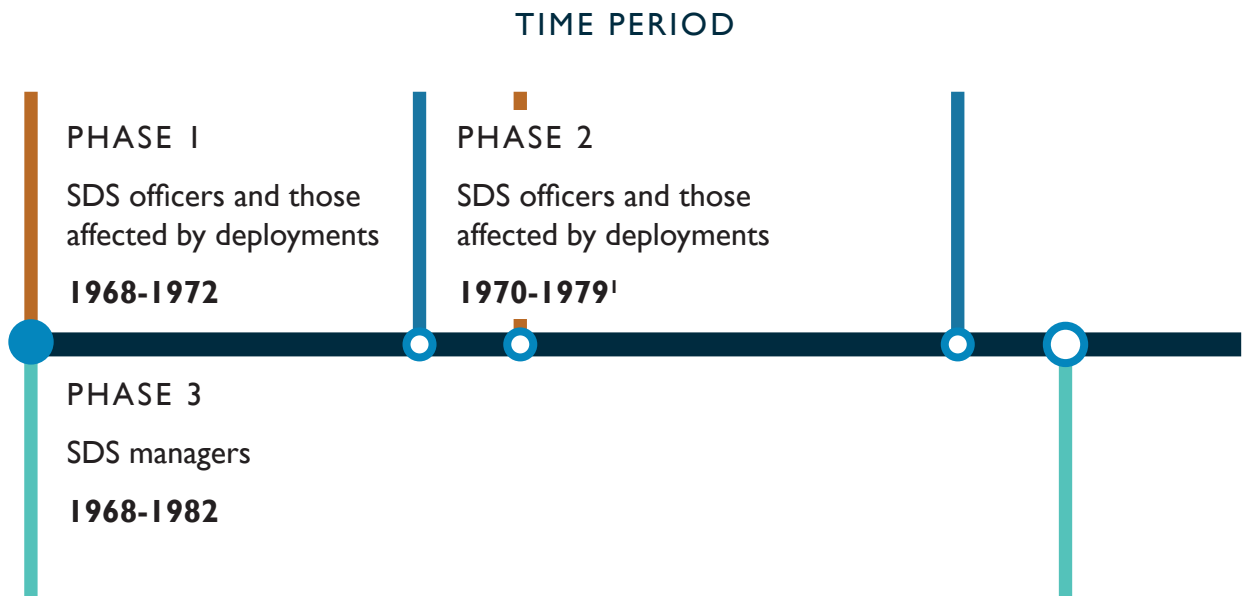
Closing statements for Tranche 1 were heard over three days in February 2023. In addition to Counsel to the Inquiry, closing statements were made by representatives for DL, CL, NPCC and the Home Secretary and representatives for seven groups of core participants.

Future hearings

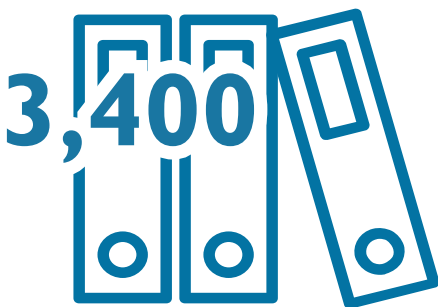
The next set of evidence hearings will cover Tranche 2, which focuses on Special Demonstration Squad officers and managers and those affected by deployments between 1983 and 1992. These hearings are planned to start in 2024.

For further information upcoming hearings, please see the [‘Hearings’](#).

Key statistics and figures for Tranche 1



FILES IN TRANCHE 1 HEARING BUNDLES²



WITNESSES GIVING ORAL EVIDENCE



¹ Deployments that started in this period.
² Rounded to nearest 100.

SDS OFFICERS

SDS MANAGERS



CIVILIANS



Witness statements

All witness statements requested from former undercover police officers and civilian witnesses for Tranche 1 have now been received, including five witness statements received in October 2022 (with additional disclosure) from MPS senior managers and government bodies with a connection to undercover policing, as part of the Inquiry's Module Two (b) and (c) investigations

For Tranche 2, all of the witness statements expected from former undercover police officers have been received. Tranche 2 is in the process of issuing Rule 9 requests to SDS managers and administrators, as well as relevant civilian witnesses. Witness statements from Tranche 3 undercover officers are being received and preliminary work is underway in respect of Rule 9 requests for Managers. Tranche 4 are preparing and despatching Rule 9 requests and have received their first witness statements from undercover officers.

³ In addition, two risk assessors of HN 155 provided witness statements.

⁴ In addition, two risk assessors of HN 155 gave oral evidence.

⁵ In addition, the family members of two undercover officers provided witness statements.

Anonymity applications

Every participant in the Inquiry has the right to request anonymity through a restriction order.

Further information on anonymity can be found on the [‘Who is involved’](#) page of the Inquiry website.

Special Demonstration Squad (SDS)

The process for determining anonymity applications from former SDS officers and managers is substantively complete.

In total, 165 SDS officers have been included in the anonymity process, and a further five have had their real and/or cover names published without being included in the process. Of the 170, 53 are management or back-office staff, and 117 are undercover police officers.

[Seventy cover names](#) along with a list of 102 groups that the SDS was known to have infiltrated have now been published on our website to enable members of the public to determine whether they have been affected by undercover policing and to come forward with evidence. In some cases, the cover names may not be known – for instance, where no record of the cover name has been found and the officer is deceased.

Where there is no restriction order over an officer’s real name, it is displayed in the SDS officer table on the Inquiry website after it has been published in documentary evidence or otherwise shared publicly by the Inquiry. The real names of 17 former SDS officers and 36 former SDS managers or back-office staff are currently displayed in the table.

Information on the groups that officers are known to have infiltrated or reported on will continue to be added to the website.

Further statistics on anonymity applications from former SDS officers are shown on page 12. These may change if new officers are uncovered or come

forward at a later date.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU)

In total, there are 67 NPOIU officers who have been included in the anonymity process. Of the 67, 22 are undercover officers and 45 are management staff.

Four NPOIU officers did not pursue applications to restrict their cover names, which are displayed in the [NPOIU officer table](#) on the Inquiry website.

As with the former SDS officers, where there is no restriction order over an NPOIU officer’s real name, it will be displayed in the NPOIU officer table on the Inquiry website after it has been published in documentary evidence or otherwise shared publicly by the Inquiry. The real name of one NPOIU officer is currently displayed in the table.

Further statistics on anonymity applications from NPOIU officers are on page 13. These may change if new officers are uncovered or come forward at a later date.

Non-state core participants and witnesses

All anonymity applications submitted by non-state core participants and witnesses have now been processed; where further individuals come forward or are contacted, the question of anonymity is considered at the outset of the individual’s engagement with the Inquiry.

For non-state core participants and witnesses – including women deceived into relationships with undercover officers - anonymity has been granted to 34 individuals.

Issues lists

Another key milestone in the preparation for hearings are the issues lists that identify the focus and direction of the Inquiry's investigations. The issues list for Module 2 (c) in the Tranche 1 era was published on 29 July 2022, following a consultation on the draft issues proposed by the Inquiry. The issues list set out the framework for the Inquiry's investigations into this period.

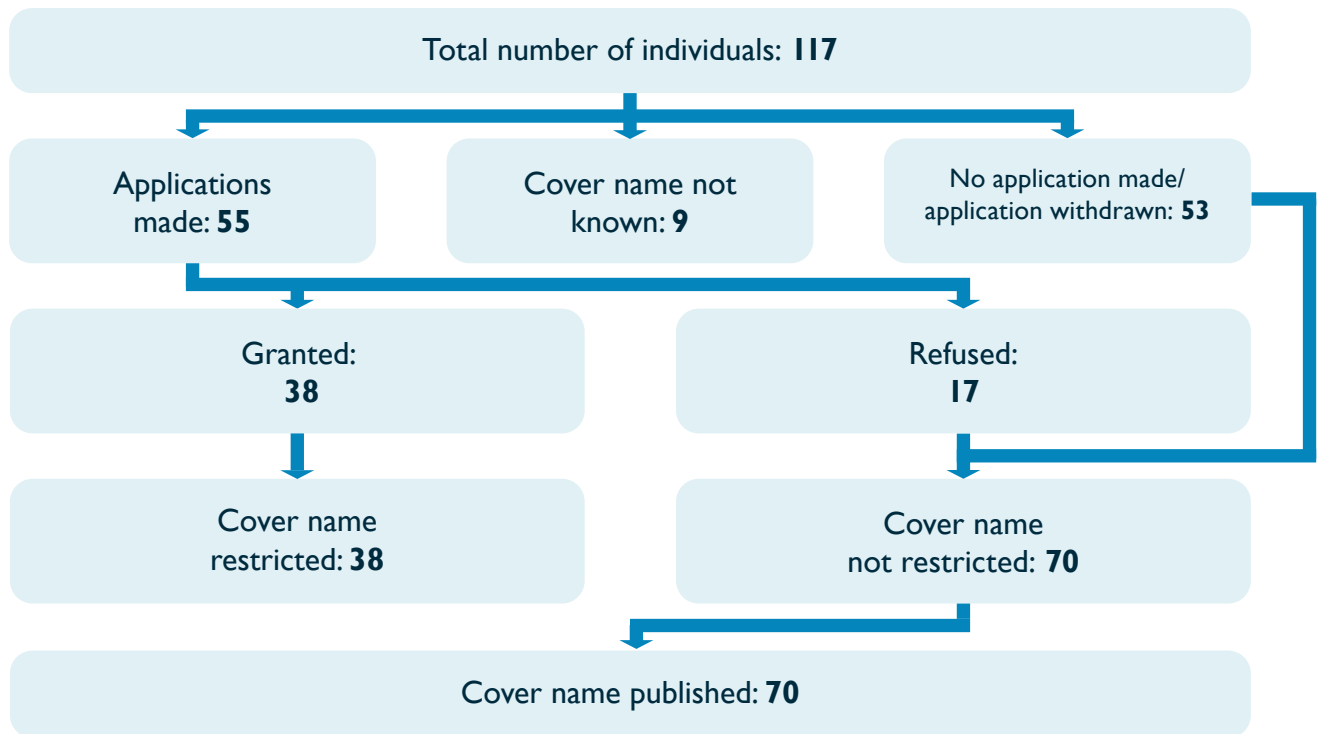
In preparation for the publication of the Tranche 1 Interim Report, the Inquiry published its [Protocol for warning letters](#) in November 2022. A requirement of the Inquiry Rules 2006 specified that a formal warning letter process is put in place to ensure that no one is criticised without fair warning and a reasonable time to respond. The Protocol sets out how the Inquiry is meeting that statutory process.

The Chair determined to whom Warning Letters should be sent. The Inquiry's general approach is to ensure that significant criticisms of relevant individuals and organisations are aired, as far as practicable, during the Inquiry's investigation, and in the Inquiry's hearings in the interest of fairness, transparency and avoiding unnecessary delay. The protocol also sets out how a recipient can respond and how the Inquiry will consider their response.

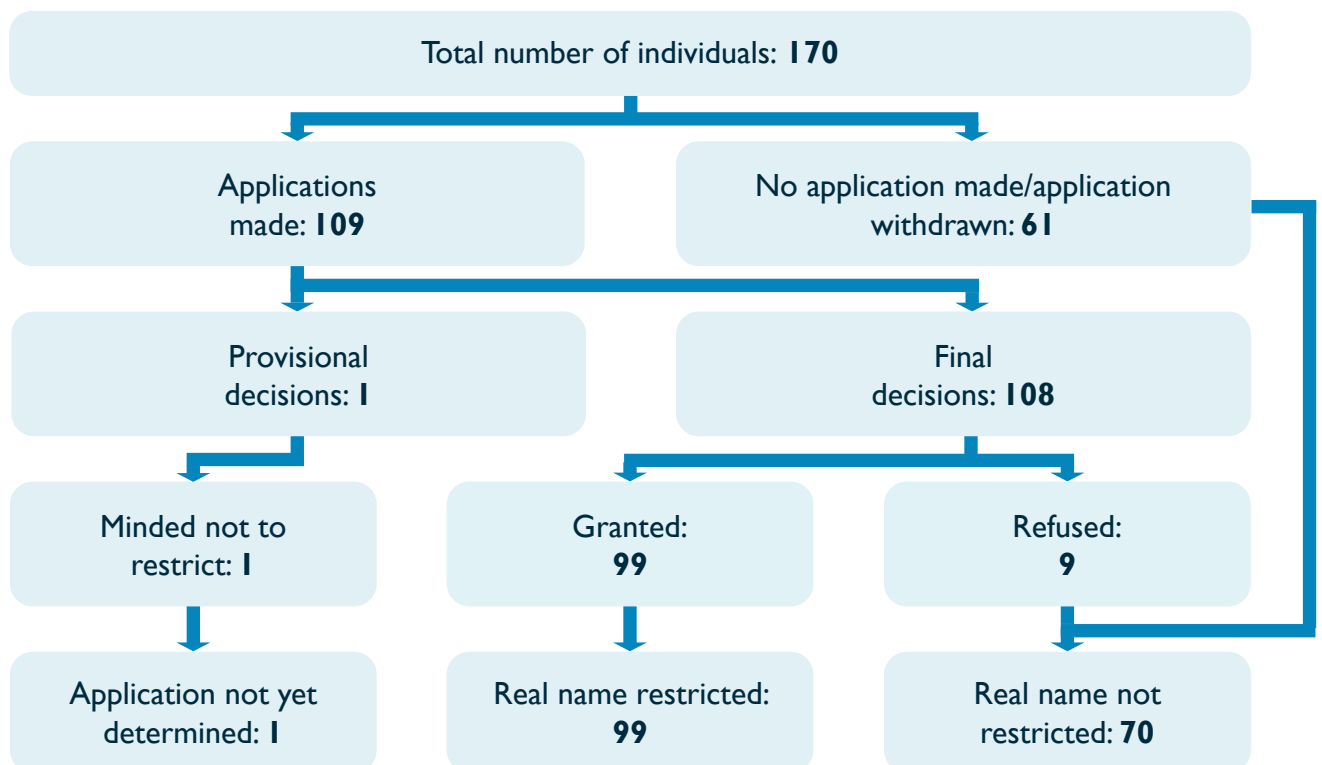
Costs

As of 30 June 2023, the Inquiry has spent £68.8m. These costs include all of the Inquiry's work to date. A full breakdown of the Inquiry costs is available on the ['About'](#) page of the Inquiry website. These costs are updated on a quarterly basis and the next set of quarterly costs will be updated imminently.

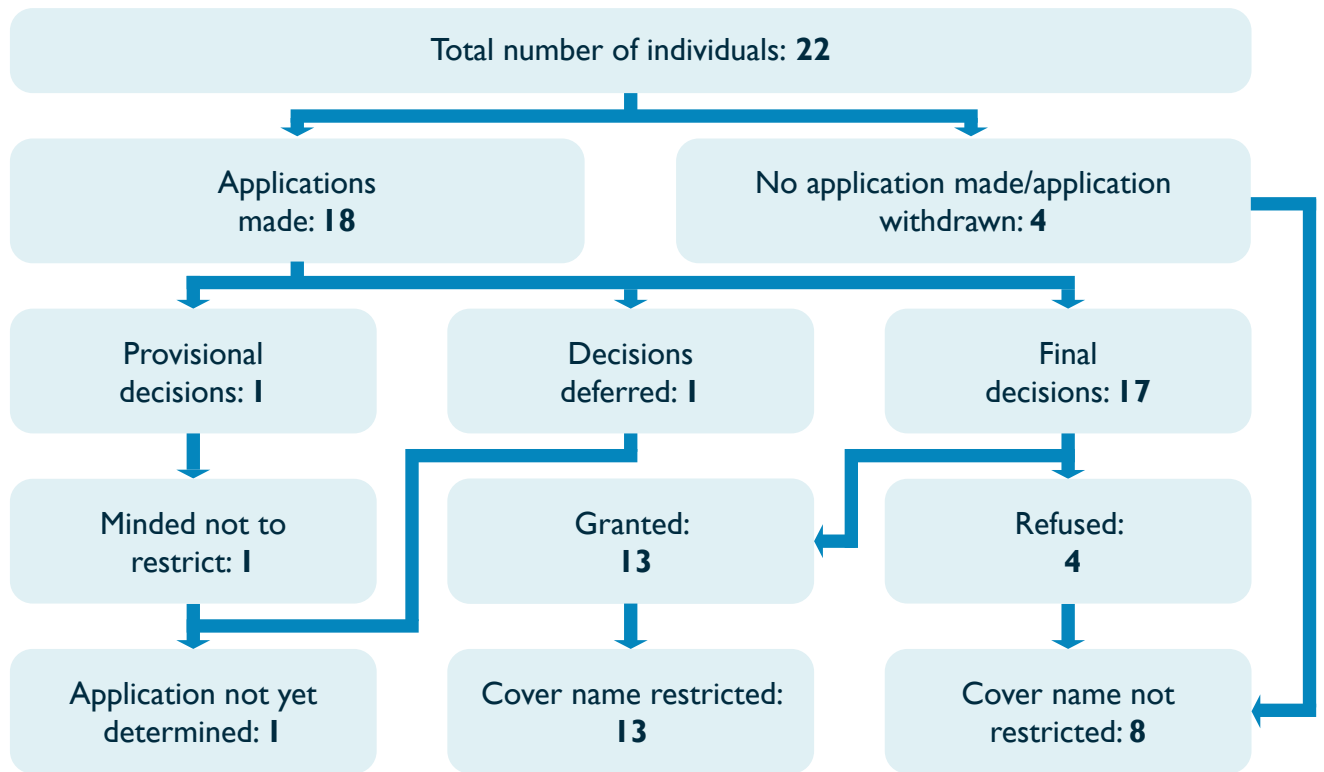
Cover names (former SDS undercover police officers)



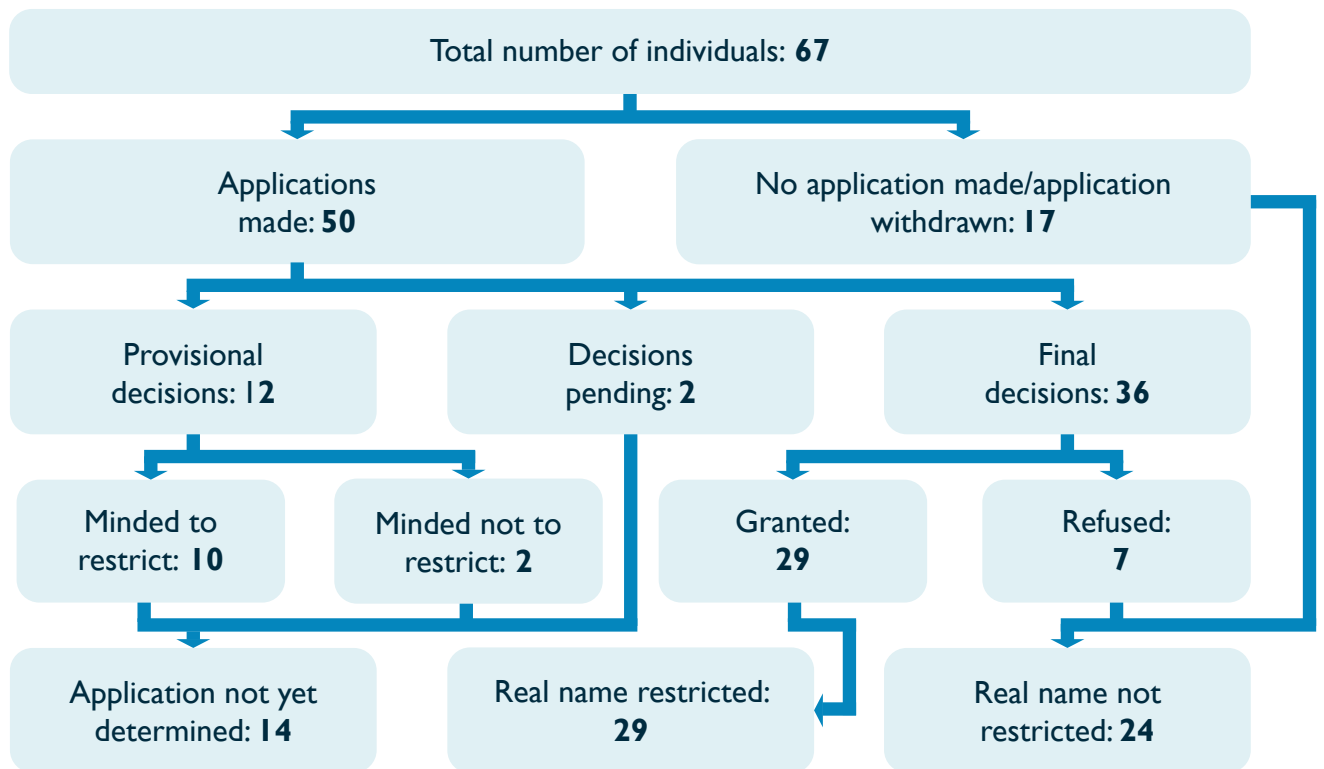
Real names (all former SDS staff)

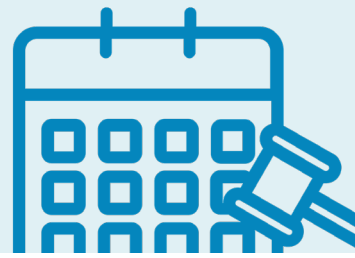


Cover names (NPOIU undercover police officers)



Real names (all NPOIU staff)





Inquiry timetable

The timetable that follows sets out Inquiry projections for its future stages, where these are known. Although there remains some uncertainty around the completion date for certain stages, those milestones on which the dates are more certain are listed.

To manage such a broad remit, the Inquiry has divided its work for Modules One and Two into the following six “Tranches”:

1. SDS officers and managers and those affected by deployments (1968-1982)
 - i. Phase 1 (P1): SOS officers and those affected by deployments (1968-1972)
 - ii. Phase 2 (P2): SDS officers and those affected by deployments (1973-1982)
 - iii. Phase 3 (P3): SDS managers (1968-1982)
2. SDS officers and managers and those affected by deployments (1983-1992)
3. SDS officers and managers and those affected by deployments (1993-2007)
4. NPOIU officers and managers and those affected by deployments
5. Other undercover policing and those affected by deployments
6. Management & oversight by mid and senior rank officers, other agencies and government departments

The table will be updated with additional dates on the Inquiry website on a quarterly basis. It is intended that all witnesses required or invited to take part in evidence hearings will be notified six months prior to commencement that the Inquiry would like them to give evidence with an indicative date of when this is likely to be and a more specific date closer to the time.

TRANCHE 1	TRANCHE 2	TRANCHE 3	TRANCHE 4	TRANCHE 5
Completion of anonymity applications ⁶	Completion of anonymity applications ⁶	Completion of anonymity applications ⁶	Completion of anonymity applications ⁶	TBA
COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	TBA	TBA
Obtaining witness statements from officers and those affected by deployments	Obtaining witness statements from officers and managers	Obtaining witness statements from officers and managers	Obtaining witness statements from officers and managers	TBA
COMPLETE	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	TBA
Obtaining witness statements from managers	Obtaining witness statements from those affected by deployments	Obtaining witness statements from those affected by deployments	Obtaining witness statements from those affected by deployments	TBA
COMPLETE	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Obtaining witness statements from other agencies, government departments and senior decision-makers	Obtaining witness statements from other agencies, government departments and senior decision-makers	Obtaining witness statements from other agencies, government departments and senior decision-makers	Obtaining witness statements from other agencies, government departments and senior decision-makers	TBA
COMPLETE	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
P1 evidence hearings	Anticipated commencement of hearing	Anticipated commencement of hearing	Anticipated commencement of hearing	Anticipated commencement of hearing
COMPLETE				
P2 evidence hearings				
COMPLETE	2024	TBA	TBA	TBA
P3 evidence hearings				
COMPLETE	Closing submissions for Tranche 2	Closing submissions for Tranche 3	Closing submissions for Tranche 4	Closing submissions for Tranche 5
COMPLETE	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Interim report for Tranche 1				
COMPLETE				

⁶ There may be a few instances where new individuals are uncovered or come forward at a later date.

Module Three
Closing submissions for Module Three
TBA
Publication of the final report
TBA



Other Inquiry statistics

Core participants and other associated parties

- Core participants: **247**
- Number of core participants receiving funding for legal costs: **225**
- SDS and NPOIU staff identified as potentially having relevant evidence to give: **228**

Witness statements⁷

- Investigation files completed: **350**
- Officer witness statements requested as part of substantive investigations: **95**
- Officer witness statements received as part of substantive investigations: **113**
- Civilian witness statements requested as part of substantive investigations: **16**
- Civilian witness statements received as part of substantive investigations: **21**

Publications

- Directions published: **52**
- Rulings and notes published: **201**
- Orders published: **195**

Hearings

- Days of evidence hearings: **29**
- Days of opening statement hearings: **14**
- Days of closing statement hearings: **3**
- Days of directions hearings and preliminary hearings: **18**

Further information on the Inquiry can be found in [our FAQs](#) and on [our website](#).

⁷ These figures only includes witness statements requested and received in relation to the Inquiry's substantive investigations. This does not include the total number of requests for information made by the Inquiry including those in relation to preliminary issues such as deceased children's identifies, privacy, standard of proof and undertakings.



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