

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 August 2017

PRESS NOTICE

'Minded to' note, ruling and directions in respect of anonymity applications relating to former officers of the Special Demonstration Squad

The Chairman of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, Sir John Mitting is today publishing a ['Minded to' note](#), with an [explanatory note from counsel](#), a [ruling](#) and [directions](#) in respect of the anonymity of 29 former officers who served in the Special Demonstration Squad from 1968 onwards. The Inquiry is processing anonymity decisions in separate tranches; these documents relate to the first and second tranches of anonymity applications. At the end of the explanatory note, Counsel provide information about the third and future tranches. The Inquiry is also publishing open versions of the applications themselves. A list of all 59 documents that are being published today can be found [here](#).

'Minded to'

The Chairman has indicated that he is minded to make the following orders in respect of 28 of the former officers:

- For three officers, no application was made over the cover name, so their cover names can be released now. Their details are set out below (HN326, HN329 and HN297).
- For two officers, the real name cannot be published, but the Chairman is minded to release the cover name subject to further submissions (HN321 and HN68).
- For five officers, neither the real nor the cover name can be published. Of these:
 - There are two cases where the Inquiry has not been able to ascertain the cover name (HN294 and HN330);
 - There are three cases in which the Chairman is aware of the cover name but is minded to restrict it (HN58, HN123 and HN333).
- In one case, the cover name has already been confirmed, and the Chairman is not minded to release the real name (HN104).
- For three officers, further information is needed before the Chairman will be able to make a decision (HN2, HN15 and HN343).
- Hearings will be required for three officers. These hearings will be in closed session due to the sensitivity of the material being considered (HN16, HN26 and HN81).

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

- In respect of one officer, an extension of time has been granted until 1 September 2017 to submit the anonymity application (HN345).
- In three cases, the officer is now deceased and there are no records of the cover names that the officers used. Their real names will appear in the relevant documents and witness statements that the Inquiry will publish in due course (HN323, HN327 and HN335).
- Seven of the officers were managers or back office staff and so they did not have cover names. Their real names will appear in the relevant documents and witness statements that the Inquiry will publish in due course (HN108, HN120, HN146, HN204, HN325, HN328 and HN1251).

In the cases where further information is required, the Inquiry team is working closely with the officers' lawyers to ensure that the outstanding information is provided as quickly as possible.

[Directions](#) have been issued in two of the three cases where the Chairman is minded to hold a closed hearing, with a view to those hearings taking place as soon as possible. Directions will be issued for the third case once a further risk assessment has been submitted.

Any core participant who wishes to make written submissions on the minded to decisions in the Chairman's note should submit written representations to the Inquiry by 4pm on 14 September 2017 setting out the grounds for the objection. The Media may also make written submissions by the same date.

The Chairman's note is accompanied by an [explanatory note](#) by counsel to the Inquiry. The explanatory note covers the following:

- The extent to which the Metropolitan Police Service has complied with the June and July deadlines;
- Where no application for a restriction order has been made, the reason why, and an explanation of what will happen next;
- In all other cases, and insofar as it is possible to do so openly, the applications and supporting evidence that have been received;
- Whether the Inquiry has published open versions of the applications and evidence;
- An explanation, where possible, for the delay if open versions of these documents have not been published; and
- Any additional submissions made on behalf of police officers who have separate legal representation.

Ruling

In a separate [ruling in respect of HN7](#), the Chairman has determined that the medical evidence is such that there will be anonymity over the former officer's real and cover names.

Details of cover names where no anonymity has been sought

The Inquiry has received confirmation that cover name restriction is not sought by or on behalf of the following officers, all three of whom worked as undercover officers for the Metropolitan Police Service's Special Operations Squad or Special Demonstration Squad:

- HN297 – This officer's cover name was "Rick Gibson". He is now deceased. He was operational between 1974 and 1976, when he was involved with the Troops Out Movement and Big Flame.
- HN326 – This officer's cover name was "Douglas Edwards". His deployment commenced in 1968 and ended in 1971. Members of the public may have met him through anarchist groups, the Independent Labour Party, Tri-Continental, or the Dambusters Mobilising Committee.
- HN329 – This officer's cover name was "John Graham". He was active between 1968 and 1969. He reported on the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and the Revolutionary Socialists Students Federation.

Next steps

Receiving submissions in respect of the 3 August 2017 'Minded to' note

The Chairman has directed that any written submissions be filed by 4pm on 14 September 2017.

Publishing further names

Where no anonymity applications have been made, or where after considering responses to the 'Minded to' note the Chairman remains of the view that information should be released, the Inquiry will publish names after all necessary security checks have been completed. The Inquiry may also need to contact relatives in cases where the officer's cover identity was based on that of a deceased child.

The Inquiry will begin these processes at the close of the consultation period; for this reason, it is likely that the first names from this tranche of anonymity allocations will not be released before the autumn. When undercover officers' names are published, the Inquiry will also publish details of deployments and dates in order to encourage witnesses to come forward with relevant information.

Hearings

The Chairman's directions indicate that he will hold hearings in respect of three officers. Depending on the response to the 'Minded to' note, it may also be necessary for there to be a public hearing to allow further submissions to be advanced on the other applications referred to in the note. The Inquiry expects to commence any open hearings necessary in October 2017 and will publish details of public hearings on its website as soon as dates are known.

Directions

The Chairman will issue further directions specifying deadlines in relation to submissions for anonymity in respect of the remaining former members of the Special Demonstration Squad. The Chairman will also consider how best to find a robust solution to ensure minimum further delay in respect of the Metropolitan Police Service's compliance with the direction made on 18 May 2017.

Background

The work of the Inquiry ranges across the full scope of undercover policing work and will look at the work of the Special Demonstration Squad, the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and police forces in England and Wales. The Inquiry will also examine whether people may have been wrongly convicted in cases involving undercover police officers, and refer any such cases to a separate panel for consideration.

The work of the Inquiry will fall into three modules:

1. Module one will look at what happened in the deployment of undercover officers in the past, their conduct, and the impact of their activities on themselves and others.
2. Module two will look at the management and oversight of undercover officers, including their selection, training, supervision and care after the end of an undercover deployment. This section will also look at the law and other rules covering undercover policing.
3. Module three will make recommendations about how undercover policing should be conducted in future.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Decisions detailed in the Chairman's 'Minded to' note are made in line with [the 3 May 2016 legal principles and approach ruling](#).
2. Open versions of all supporting documentation have been published. In total, there are 59 documents to consider. A list of these documents can be found [here](#).
3. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is constituted under the [Inquiries Act 2005](#).
4. The Inquiry's [terms of reference](#) were announced by the Home Secretary on 16 July 2015.
5. The Inquiry's ['frequently asked questions'](#) document provides more information on the Inquiry more generally, as do [four published update notes](#).
6. The Inquiry's website is www.ucpi.org.uk and the Inquiry can be found on Twitter @ucpinquiry

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