



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 3 June 2016 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated as a core participant in the Accountability and Reparations investigation to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 1 July 2016.
2. An application was made on behalf of retired Detective Constable Margaret Oliver, retired Detective Constable John Wedger and retired Detective Superintendent Peter Jackson for core participant status in the Accountability and Reparations investigation on 14 May 2018. While this application was made outside the window for core participant applications, the application provides reasons for this and I am satisfied that I should proceed to consider the application despite it being submitted late
3. I provisionally declined the application on 7 August 2018. All three applicants were provided with an opportunity to renew their application by notifying the Solicitor to the Inquiry of their intention to renew and providing written submissions in support of their application by 4 September 2018. The application was not renewed. This notice sets out my final determination of the application.
4. Applications for core participant status are considered under Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 which provides:
 - (1) *The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.*
 - (2) *In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether –*
 - a. *The person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;*
 - b. *The person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the*



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

matters to which the inquiry relates; or

c. The person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.

(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on –

a. the date specified by the chairman in writing; or

b. the end of the inquiry.

5. In determining each person's application, the matters listed in Rule 5(2) must be considered, but the list is not exhaustive and I may also take into account other relevant matters.
6. Having regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2), I am not satisfied that Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson have played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates, or that there are other good reasons to designate them as core participants in the Accountability and Reparations investigation.
7. In their application for core participant status it is stated that Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson together have decades of experience as police officers specialising in the detection and investigation of child sexual abuse and are able to give direct and highly relevant evidence regarding the culture, practice and policy of policing across England and Wales in relation to child sexual abuse. It is further submitted that Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson are able to give such evidence with an independence that a serving officer could not.
8. I note the individual experience of each of Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson as police officers, their work in relation to dealing with child sexual abuse and their concerns about the Inquiry not being provided with an accurate picture about the culture and practices of the police in relation to child sexual abuse.



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

9. While acknowledging what Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson say about their experience, I am not currently satisfied that they have played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates.

10. As part of this investigation, the Inquiry will consider the experiences of individuals placed in children's homes in England and Wales including North Wales Children's Homes, St Leonard's Children's Home, St Aidan's and St Vincent's Children's Home, Stanhope Castle Approved School and Forde Park Approved School in order to investigate general issues of accountability and reparation for victims and survivors. The general issues that will form the primary focus of the case studies are referred to in the Final Notice of Determination dated 8 June 2018. While this list of issues is not exclusive and some flexibility is required, the Inquiry will not examine the operation of the criminal justice system, including the disputed actions or omissions of the police.

11. It is acknowledged that in the interests of fairness, individuals and organisations working within the criminal justice system, including the police, may need to be given the opportunity to respond to criticisms that are made against them during the course of the case studies. However, on the information placed before me the experience of Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson does not appear to relate specifically to one of the five cases studies.

12. For the above reasons I am not satisfied that Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates. Accordingly, I decline the application to designate Ms Oliver, Mr Wedger and Mr Jackson as core participants in this investigation.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE
Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

12 October 2018