



## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 30 August 2017 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated as a core participant in the Westminster investigation to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 27 October 2017.
2. On 24 January 2018, an application was made by Z11 for core participant status in the Westminster investigation and in the investigation into Accountability and Reparations for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. As I was minded to decline Z11's determination, a provisional notice of determination was sent to him on 9 March 2018 and he was informed that if he wished to renew his application, he should do so by 23 March 2018. Following further communication from Z11 on 18 June 2018, the Solicitor to the Inquiry informed Z11 that if he wished to renew his application out of time, he should do so.
3. On 16 August 2018, the Inquiry received a renewed application from Ms Alison Millar of Leigh Day on behalf of Z11. The Inquiry's [protocol](#) on core participant applications sets out what information applicants should provide. Z11's initial and renewed applications have both been made in accordance with that protocol and I have considered all information provided with the applications carefully. This notice therefore constitutes my final ruling on his application in respect of the Westminster investigation.
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 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. This application has been lodged almost three months after the deadline for core participant applications in the Westminster investigation. Notwithstanding the delay, I have a discretion pursuant to Rule 5(1) to designate a core participant “at any time” during the course of the Inquiry. In light of the fact that the investigation is at an early stage, and also as a matter of general fairness, I consider that the delay should not stand in the way of my considering the application.
6. In determining the application, the matters listed in Rule 5(2) must be considered, but the list is not exhaustive and other relevant matters can also be taken into account.
7. The application is made on the basis that Z11 was the victim of child abuse at Grafton Close children’s home while under the care of Richmond Council. It is alleged that Z11 was groomed whilst at Grafton Close and was also indecently assaulted whilst in the shower. Z11 says that he was approached by police officers as part of Operation Fernbridge, the Metropolitan Police investigation into allegations of abuse at Grafton Close children’s home and Elm Guest House. Z11 says that he contacted his local MP and that they worked together to seek support and information on behalf of Z11 and more widely for victims of child sexual abuse.
8. Z11 considers that there are failures of the criminal justice system and the civil justice system in dealing with the victims of child sexual abuse, and refers to (among others) issues of compensation, burden of proof and anonymity. In his view Ministries and Ministers have been evasive. Z11 says he wants to engage with the Inquiry and to obtain disclosure on these and other points through the Inquiry.

9. At the outset I note that the focus of the Westminster investigation is on how Westminster institutions responded to allegations of child sexual abuse and exploitation (including the awareness of Ministers, party whips, political parties, the intelligence and/or security agencies, law enforcement agencies and/or prosecuting authorities of the involvement of people of public prominence associated with Westminster in the sexual abuse of children and, if they were so aware, the failure to take adequate steps to prevent such abuse from occurring or the taking of steps to prevent such abuse from being revealed).
  
10. Z11 does not allege that he was the victim of child sexual abuse involving people of public prominence associated with Westminster or that Westminster institutions were aware of any such child sexual abuse. Nor does he allege that such institutions failed to take adequate steps to prevent abuse from occurring or took steps to prevent such abuse from being revealed. Z11's renewed application does not contain any new information which changes my view and I still consider that he is not a person who has played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters the Westminster investigation relates. Nor does he have a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Westminster investigation relates.
  
11. Z11 does describe more recent contact with his MP in order to seek support and information, and his frustrations in this regard, including more generally with the criminal and civil justice systems. Again this does not relate to alleged child sexual abuse by people of prominence associated with Westminster and further there is no suggestion that Z11's MP was previously aware of the abuse which Z11 alleges or that he failed to take adequate steps to prevent it from occurring or took steps to prevent it from being revealed. This more recent involvement of Z11's MP does not, therefore, take Z11's application within the investigation's scope.
  
12. For the reasons set out above, I confirm my provisional ruling not to designate Z11 as a core participant in the Westminster investigation.

