

**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 19 October 2017, an application was made by Mr David Chalmers for core participant status in the Westminster investigation. This notice sets out my determination of that application.
3. 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.*
4. 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.

5. Mr Chalmers states that he was a formerly a high level Special Branch asset and a central component of a major phone trace and tap operation which was set up to counter a “black psychological operation” targeting the author of some contentious inquiries into child sexual abuse during the 1980s and 1990s. Mr Chalmers believes this operation was being driven by high-level elements within the state apparatus. Mr Chalmers states that he acted with the authority of former Prime Minister John Major. Mr Chalmers states that the author’s identity was leaked and that the operation became subject to a D-notice. Mr Chalmers states that he can provide full details to the Inquiry.

6. Having regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2), I am not satisfied that Mr Chalmers should be designated as a core participant in relation to the Westminster investigation. Mr Chalmers may have played a role in relation to matters to which the Inquiry relates. However, I have concluded that, by reason of the information that he has provided and the allegations he has made, Mr Chalmers is best placed to assist the Inquiry as a witness rather than as a Core Participant. I therefore do not designate Mr Chalmers as a Core Participant.

7. I will keep the scope of the investigation and the designation of core participants under review and further invitations to apply for core participant status may be made as the investigation proceeds. I should add that I shall consider any application which Mr Chalmers may make in future to be designated as a core participant in any other investigation.

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

31 January 2018