

**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 18 October 2017, an application was made by Sarah McDonagh for core participant status in the Westminster investigation. This notice sets out my determination of the 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. The application is put on the basis that Ms McDonagh provided evidence of a paedophile ring connected to the Sussex Western Bench on which Ms McDonagh sat as a Magistrate, evidence which she says was suppressed by a number of people. Ms McDonagh also provides general information regarding Freemasonry in the Chichester area and its alleged influence on the courts, and comments on the reputation of Seaford College. There is not, however, sufficient information in Ms McDonagh's application for me currently to be satisfied that she played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates, or that she has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates.
6. The Westminster investigation is, as set out in the Definition of Scope, concerned with allegations of child sexual abuse involving current and/or former Members of Parliament, senior civil servants, government advisers, and/or members of the intelligence agencies (collectively 'people of public prominence associated with Westminster'). The allegations to which Ms McDonagh refers do not concern allegations involving "people of public prominence associated with Westminster" and accordingly do not fall within the scope of the Westminster investigation.
7. I am accordingly not currently satisfied that Ms McDonagh fulfills the criteria in Rule 5.2 and so do not designate her as a core participant in this investigation.
8. 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 Ms McDonagh 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