

1 Thursday, 2 May 2019  
2 (10.30 am)  
3 Welcome and opening remarks by THE CHAIR  
4 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. As many of you will  
5 know, I'm Alexis Jay and I'm the Chair of the  
6 independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, sitting  
7 with me are the other panel members of the inquiry:  
8 Ivor Frank, Professor Sir Malcolm Evans and  
9 Drusilla Sharpling.  
10 On behalf of the the inquiry, I welcome you all to  
11 this, the first preliminary hearing in the Investigation  
12 into Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks.  
13 This investigation aims to examine the nature and extent  
14 of child sexual exploitation, and institutional  
15 responses to it, by organised networks. This will be  
16 done through a number of case-specific investigations as  
17 well as a review of information available from published  
18 and unpublished reports and reviews, court cases and  
19 previous investigations.  
20 On 6 March 2019, the inquiry published an update  
21 note explaining the issues and areas the investigation  
22 would cover. The update note also invited individuals  
23 and organisations to apply for core participant status.  
24 Counsel will update us shortly on progress made in  
25 the investigation to date.

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1 present and two prospective core participants.  
2 I'd like to indicate that we have here, on behalf of  
3 Margaret Oliver and John Wedger, Chris Jacobs of  
4 counsel; I think Sarah Champion MP; Amelia Walker of  
5 counsel for the Home Office; Sarah Hannett for Ofsted;  
6 James Berry of counsel for the National Police Chiefs'  
7 Council; I think Mr Dunlop QC for St Helens Borough  
8 Council; Cleo Parry for Tower Hamlets; Jesse Cook for  
9 the Metropolitan Police Service; Steven Ford QC for  
10 Durham County Council; Nancy Rollason for Bristol City  
11 Council; Andrew Sharland for Warwickshire City Council;  
12 Kim Harrison, instructed by Slater and Gordon, for  
13 CS-A2; and, in terms of prospective core participants,  
14 Chris Jacobs of counsel is here on behalf of  
15 Mr Connolly; and Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC is here on  
16 behalf of the Centre for Women's Justice.  
17 I hope that covers everybody, but if there's  
18 somebody I've missed, then please say so.  
19 Chair in recent years the problem of child sexual  
20 exploitation by networks has received significant public  
21 attention. As you may well know, chair, a definition of  
22 child sexual exploitation was first given in statutory  
23 guidance in 2009 updated in 2017.  
24 The current definition is as follows:  
25 "Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual

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1 Today is an opportunity to consider various steps  
2 for the future conduct of the investigation over the  
3 coming months, leading to a public hearing in 2020.  
4 Before we hear from counsel, there's some points on  
5 time keeping to deal with. We will take a 10-minute  
6 break at around 11.45, if this hearing is not concluded  
7 prior to that. Directions arising from this hearing  
8 will be published on the inquiry's website shortly after  
9 the hearing, as will the hearing transcript.  
10 I'll now invite the lead counsel to the inquiry in  
11 relation to this investigation, Henrietta Hill QC, to  
12 provide us with an update.  
13 Opening remarks by MS HILL  
14 MS HILL: Good morning, chair. I appear this morning with  
15 Mr Suterwalla and Mr Livingston of counsel, who work on  
16 this investigation with me.  
17 Chair, this the first preliminary hearing in the  
18 inquiry's Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised  
19 Networks Investigation and, as you've indicated, we are  
20 working towards the hearing next year. The purpose of  
21 today's hearing is to set out in summary the work of the  
22 investigation to date, the position in respect of core  
23 participants and to give some outline of the steps to be  
24 taken between now and the hearing.  
25 Chair, we have several of the core participants

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1 abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes  
2 advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate  
3 or deceive a child under the age of 18 into sexual  
4 activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs  
5 or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or  
6 increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The  
7 victim may have been sexually exploited even if the  
8 sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual  
9 exploitation does not always involve physical contact;  
10 it can also occur through the use of technology."  
11 That's taken from "Child sexual  
12 exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners,  
13 local leaders and decision-makers".  
14 Chair, as far as we are aware, there's been no  
15 previous definition in guidance or in reports as to the  
16 meaning of "organised networks" and, as we've made clear  
17 in the course of its scoping work, the inquiry has  
18 adopted this definition for "organised networks":  
19 "An organised network is characterised by two or  
20 more individuals, whether identified or not, who are  
21 known to (or associated with) one another and are known  
22 to be involved in or to facilitate the sexual  
23 exploitation of children. Being involved in the sexual  
24 exploitation of children includes introducing them to  
25 other individuals for the purpose of exploitation,

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<p>1 trafficking a child for the purpose of sexual 2 exploitation, taking payment for sexual activities with 3 a child or allowing their property to be used for sexual 4 activities with a child." 5 Chair, by way of brief introduction, the true extent 6 of child sexual exploitation by organised networks -- 7 CSEN as we are abbreviating it to -- remains unclear. 8 But just to give some very broad sense of what some of 9 the data is beginning to suggest. 10 A report from the Centre of Expertise On Child 11 Sexual Abuse in August 2018 looked at data from local 12 authorities and the criminal justice system, and that 13 report quoted Local Authority data as suggesting that, 14 in England, 18,800 children were assessed as being at 15 risk of sexual exploitation in 2016 to 2017; and 16 observed that the rate of children recorded in England 17 as being at risk has increased between 2014 and 2017. 18 There is further data that you'll of course be 19 provided with in due course. 20 But to give you some broad sense of the criminal 21 justice data, the same report noted that, of 65,548 22 child sexual abuse offences recorded by the police in 23 2016 and 2017, across England and Wales, around 24 2.8 per cent of those from England and 1.8 per cent of 25 those from Wales involved criminal offences most clearly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 associated with CSEN, so abuse of children through 2 exploitation and grooming. 3 Pausing there, in the past decade or so, there have 4 also been a significant number of prosecutions relating 5 to CSEN. You'll be familiar, I'm sure, with some of the 6 prosecutions, but there have been trials relating to 7 offences of child trafficking and exploitation in 8 Telford, Rochdale, Oldham, Oxford and other places. 9 You'll be familiar, of course, with the number of 10 reports on the issue of CSEN. There are a significant 11 number of these reports which the inquiry has already 12 reviewed. These include: reports from the Home Affairs 13 Select Committee in 2013; the Office of the Children's 14 Commissioner in 2013; your own report, chair, from 2014 15 in Rotherham; and other reports such as the Serious Case 16 Review from Oxfordshire in 2015, and similar reports. 17 In much more recent developments, chair, very 18 recently we have seen the Home Office publishing a child 19 exploitation disruption tool kit that gives guidance for 20 frontline practitioners on recognising CSE and working 21 together to deploy tactics to disrupt exploitation when 22 it occurs. All of this perhaps illustrates, at a very 23 high level, chair, I appreciate, the nature of the issue 24 that this investigation is seeking to examine. 25 Pulling those threads together, chair, it's clear</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 that significant work has already been done to 2 understand the nature of CSEN. A large number of 3 reports have been produced, some with a geographical 4 focus, some with a thematic focus. All of them have 5 made recommendations as to how this issue should be 6 tackled. This investigation focusing on the 7 institutional responses to CSEN, does not seek to repeat 8 what has gone before, but seeks to establish whether key 9 recommendations in the field have been implemented and, 10 if they have not, why that is the case. 11 So, chair, I'll move now to provide an update on the 12 investigation and work that has been done so far. 13 As you've indicated, chair, the investigation will 14 conduct a review of information available from published 15 and unpublished reports and reviews, court cases and 16 previous investigation. That review has largely been 17 done by the inquiry, so, as part of the scoping 18 exercise, all of the previous recommendations from those 19 reports have been reviewed. 20 The inquiry has also undertaken a significant amount 21 of scoping work by looking at publicly available data on 22 a number of particular risk factors, such as, in 23 a particular local authority area: the number of 24 children on child protection plans; a deprivation index; 25 policing arrangements; absence from school, and so on,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 and that work was done in relation to 178 local 2 authority areas. 3 The results from that process were taken and 4 filtered further, through consideration of subjective 5 qualitative information and data, and that led to the 6 selection of 13 local authority areas from which to 7 obtain specific information. 8 As I've indicated, the previous recommendations from 9 earlier reports and reviews were identified. On the 10 back of those recommendations, the inquiry developed 11 a questionnaire to be sent to those 13 local authority 12 areas. That questionnaire was sent in the autumn of 13 2017 together with rule 9 requests to those areas. 14 Requests were sent to the local authority, to the 15 relevant police force, the chair of the LSCB and 16 clinical commissioning groups and, throughout the latter 17 part of 2017 and 2018, a very large volume of material 18 from those 13 areas was reviewed and analysed by the 19 inquiry. 20 Through that scoping work, chair, the inquiry 21 identified the eight themes, which have been announced 22 through the update note published in March, that this 23 investigation will focus on. And so this investigation 24 intends to hear evidence about the following themes: 25 Firstly, CSE problem profiling, including gender and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

1 ethnicity and the disruption of offenders. That will  
2 involve whether police forces have comprehensive and  
3 up-to-date information about local patterns of CSE in  
4 their area and the extent to which their information and  
5 how they use it is effective and reliable.

6 Second, empathy and concern for child victims. That  
7 will include whether child victims feel they are treated  
8 with empathy and respect by the police, local  
9 authorities and support services when they disclose  
10 sexual exploitation, and we'll look at what action those  
11 agencies take to ensure victims are treated with empathy  
12 and respect and what action is taken to prevent or  
13 respond to the negative stereotyping of victims and  
14 survivors.

15 Thirdly, risk assessment and the protection from  
16 harm that will look at whether risks to sexually  
17 exploited children are understood, documented and  
18 managed effectively and whether local multi-agency  
19 meetings take appropriate action to safeguard children  
20 from the threat of sexual exploitation.

21 Next, the inquiry will look at missing children  
22 return home interviews and looked-after children. That  
23 will include what is being done to prevent children from  
24 going missing, to protect children from the threat of  
25 CSE, whether return home interviews are carried out,

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1 geography and social characteristics, as well as being  
2 likely to illustrate contrasting practice and  
3 performance on these themes. The areas are defined by  
4 local authority boundaries, and the selected areas are  
5 St Helens, Tower Hamlets, Swansea, Durham, Bristol and  
6 Warwickshire. Chair, those themes and those areas were  
7 announced by the inquiry in the update note published  
8 in March of this year, which also explained that the  
9 inquiry would conduct a searching but proportionate  
10 investigation and would be unlikely to make any fresh  
11 determination as to whether an incident of child sexual  
12 exploitation by networks in fact occurred or whether  
13 there were any individual failures as opposed to  
14 institutional failures to protect children, which is the  
15 focus.

16 Chair, the update note invited applications for core  
17 participant status from individuals and institutions who  
18 consider they have a sufficient interest in those themes  
19 and areas. The note made clear that, while the inquiry  
20 is likely to obtain evidence from a range of  
21 institutions, a significant focus will be placed on the  
22 role of the police and local authorities in those areas  
23 and on those themes, and that applications for core  
24 participant status, which relate to CSEN other than in  
25 respect of those themes and areas, were unlikely to be

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1 what use is made from the data from those interviews,  
2 the extent to which looked-after children go missing,  
3 and how those placed in residential homes and other  
4 areas are protected from sexual exploitation.

5 The fourth issue will be looking at male victims, in  
6 particular the barriers to the identification of males  
7 as victims and any regional variation in that  
8 identification.

9 Next, we'll look at children with a disability, the  
10 threat of sexual exploitation to children with learning  
11 and other disabilities and what is being done to  
12 safeguard those children who are at risk of sexual  
13 exploitation.

14 Seven, partnership working on child sexual  
15 exploitation. So that will look at how well  
16 partnerships share information in relation to child  
17 victims and perpetrators, whether effective partnership  
18 work prevents victimisation and supports children.

19 Finally, audit review and performance management.  
20 That's about the extent to which audit activity drives  
21 improvements in practice in those areas.

22 Chair, secondly, the inquiry's scoping work enabled  
23 it to focus on six particular geographic areas or to  
24 select six areas for such focus. These areas provide  
25 a range of features, including size, demography,

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1 successful in the absence of exceptional reasons.

2 Chair, turning now to item 3 on the agenda: the  
3 actual applications that were made for core participant  
4 status.

5 Chair, I will first of all indicate those  
6 applications that you have granted. I think the  
7 majority, but not all, of those CPs are here.

8 In, perhaps, the first group there are what might be  
9 called the national level core participants, and in that  
10 group you've afforded CP status to the following:  
11 Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation;  
12 Margaret Oliver and John Wedger, who are former police  
13 officers; Sarah Champion MP; the Home Office; Ofsted;  
14 and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

15 In the second group, which is core participants who  
16 are specific to the geographical case study areas, you  
17 have designated the following: St Helens Borough  
18 Council; the London Borough of Tower Hamlets; the  
19 Metropolitan Police Service; Durham County Council;  
20 Bristol City Council; Warwickshire County Council; and  
21 CS-A2 an individual whose experiences relate to  
22 Warwickshire as an area.

23 Chair, you received several other applications for  
24 core participant status which you indicated, on  
25 a provisional basis, you were minded to refuse. Those

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1 who received such provisional determinations were  
2 afforded the usual opportunity to renew their  
3 applications. Chair, three have done so since the  
4 decisions were circulated. One has done so in writing  
5 and does not wish to develop the arguments orally.  
6 There are two who wish to advance their submissions  
7 orally today. And so, chair, as you're aware, there are  
8 two representatives here: firstly, Mr Jacobs for  
9 Mr Connolly and Ms Gallagher QC for the Centre for  
10 Women's Justice. Perhaps it's for you to hear those  
11 submissions.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We'll take Mr Jacobs first.  
13 Application by MR JACOBS

14 MR JACOBS: Chair, thank you. As you heard from my learned  
15 friend, I appear for two core participant witnesses, who  
16 are two core participants, and Ms Oliver is here today.  
17 I will make representations in respect of the directions  
18 that we seek in respect of those two at the end of the  
19 hearing, if that's all right, and I'll go straight into  
20 the renewed application in relation to Paul Connolly.

21 Firstly, I do invite the London Borough of  
22 Tower Hamlets, who we note are here today as a core  
23 participant, to support this application, and those who  
24 instruct me have recently passed a note to those who  
25 instruct the London borough to inform them that that is

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1 members of staff who were employees of the London  
2 Borough of Tower Hamlets and other paedophiles. So it  
3 was an organised raid conducted by an organised network  
4 in relation to children in care, and we say that this is  
5 highly important evidence of an organised network  
6 operating within a children's home in one of the  
7 inquiry's specified geographical areas. So that is  
8 a highly relevant consideration.

9 We note that your determination says that  
10 Mr Connolly can assist the inquiry as a witness, not as  
11 a core participant. And we strongly urge you to revisit  
12 and reject that suggestion. In our opinion, Mr Connolly  
13 would be at a substantial and significant disadvantage  
14 were he not to be accorded core participant status.

15 Firstly, he would not be able to put rule 10  
16 questions to the other witnesses who represent  
17 institutions, in particular London Borough of  
18 Tower Hamlets who were responsible for the abuse meted  
19 out upon him and other children at the St Leonard's  
20 Home.

21 Tower Hamlets, of course, are entitled to put those  
22 questions to any witness that they choose. As  
23 a non-core participant, Mr Connolly would be denied that  
24 right.

25 Secondly, Mr Connolly ought to be entitled to the

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1 something that we're applying to do.

2 Chair, you determined Mr Connolly's application on  
3 23 April 2019 and, as matters stood before you then,  
4 your view was that Mr Connolly hadn't demonstrated  
5 sufficient interest in the specific issues selected for  
6 the investigation. We refer to our detailed renewal  
7 application dated 30 April 2019. You'll see in that, in  
8 particular at paragraph 11, we've taken specific  
9 instructions from Mr Connolly in relation to each of the  
10 eight themes identified in the March update note and  
11 I will make further submissions on each of those eight  
12 points in my submissions today.

13 If I could deal with Mr Connolly himself. Chair,  
14 Mr Connolly is the author of three books, detailing in  
15 particular abuse of children by organised networks at  
16 St Leonard's Children's Home in Tower Hamlets. He was  
17 a child in care at that institution and, chair, you will  
18 recall, no doubt, that he gave very powerful evidence at  
19 the accountability -- the A&R investigation hearing  
20 in November 2018.

21 He spent a total of 20 years in the care system.

22 A significant part of the evidence that Mr Connolly  
23 gave as a core participant in that investigation  
24 in November 2018 related to raids that were conducted at  
25 the St Leonard's Children's Home in the dormitories by

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1 same legal representation as the London Borough of  
2 Tower Hamlets, the institution which, I submit, ought to  
3 be required to account for his abuse and for the abuse  
4 of children like him and also account to Mr Connolly, as  
5 a former victim and a survivor, as to what has been done  
6 to ensure that the experiences that he underwent can  
7 never be repeated.

8 In my submission, it must be uncontentious that  
9 Mr Connolly meets the requirements of rule 5. He  
10 clearly has a significant interest in the abuse of  
11 children by criminal networks by organised means in the  
12 London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

13 You will see from our renewal application he has  
14 been proactive in seeking answers to his genuine  
15 concerns in relation to how those children in care in  
16 that London borough fare today and what attempts are  
17 being made to safeguard them.

18 We also say that, as a victim and survivor of  
19 an organised group, he played a significant and direct  
20 role, an important aspect of the matter to which this  
21 inquiry relates, which is effectively institutional  
22 responses to child sexual abuse by organised networks.

23 I'll now go on to deal with the eight themes.

24 I've already referred to paragraph 11 of our renewal  
25 application, but dealing with the themes in turn,

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<p>1 I would say the following.</p> <p>2 In relation to problem profiling, and disruption of</p> <p>3 offenders, it's Mr Connolly's case that the police had</p> <p>4 no information on local patterns of child abuse in</p> <p>5 London Borough of Tower Hamlets because they didn't act.</p> <p>6 He says that the raids on the dormitories by this</p> <p>7 organised group were conducted with complete impunity.</p> <p>8 I say, in relation to this theme, Mr Connolly has</p> <p>9 a direct interest into why this sustained, organised</p> <p>10 abuse was allowed to go on.</p> <p>11 Secondly, I say that he has a direct interest in</p> <p>12 whether the situation in the London Borough of</p> <p>13 Tower Hamlets has actually changed.</p> <p>14 In relation to empathy and respect, Mr Connolly's</p> <p>15 instructions are that there was a marked lack of empathy</p> <p>16 and concern, social services were on friendly terms with</p> <p>17 abusers, and there was a culture of no confidentiality,</p> <p>18 abusers being in the room at all times when social</p> <p>19 services met with Mr Connolly and other children like</p> <p>20 him.</p> <p>21 Mr Connolly has had no written apology from the</p> <p>22 London Borough of Tower Hamlets and he says -- and it's</p> <p>23 a point that aggrieves him considerably -- the London</p> <p>24 borough have refused to engage with his constructive</p> <p>25 proposals as to how child abuse can be prevented in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 future, particularly by organised gangs of paedophiles.</p> <p>2 In relation to risk assessment and protection from</p> <p>3 harm, Mr Connolly says that risk assessments were, in</p> <p>4 his view, nonexistent in the 1970s and 1980s. He has</p> <p>5 worked with a number of charities and he has addressed</p> <p>6 the House of Lords on this issue and issues related to</p> <p>7 it.</p> <p>8 He says that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets</p> <p>9 have refused to engage with him in relation to how it is</p> <p>10 that they propose to protect children in care from harm.</p> <p>11 Again, I say on this part of the thematic scheme of</p> <p>12 the investigation, Mr Connolly has a direct and</p> <p>13 significant interest in how and to what extent children</p> <p>14 in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets are protected</p> <p>15 from harm today.</p> <p>16 In relation to missing children, Mr Connolly states</p> <p>17 that he was aware of many children who ran away from the</p> <p>18 St Leonard's Home and were groomed into prostitution</p> <p>19 outside the children's home. He refers in the</p> <p>20 application to the West End of London being the location</p> <p>21 where that took place.</p> <p>22 He does not believe that any return interviews were</p> <p>23 carried out.</p> <p>24 He has, in my submission, a significant interest in</p> <p>25 what is being done to prevent children going missing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>
<p>1 today, and what is being done to prevent the same</p> <p>2 exploitation of such missing children.</p> <p>3 In relation to male victims, Mr Connolly, his</p> <p>4 evidence quite clearly is that male victims were</p> <p>5 a target group in relation to the organised abusers at</p> <p>6 the St Leonard's Home. He has a direct and significant</p> <p>7 interest in looking at whether there are barriers to</p> <p>8 identification of male victims.</p> <p>9 In respect of children with a disability,</p> <p>10 Mr Connolly states that vulnerable children in care will</p> <p>11 often have mental health problems. He says that those</p> <p>12 problems are exploited by the abusers and he has</p> <p>13 particularly made it clear, and he made it clear in his</p> <p>14 evidence before you, chair, in November, that he</p> <p>15 struggles with mental health issues himself as</p> <p>16 a consequence of his experiences as a child in the care</p> <p>17 of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>18 So I submit here again, Mr Connolly has a direct and</p> <p>19 significant interest in what is being done to protect</p> <p>20 such vulnerable children with mental health disabilities</p> <p>21 and issues in the London borough today.</p> <p>22 Partnership working on child sexual abuse, this is</p> <p>23 dealt with at page 7 of the application to renew, chair.</p> <p>24 Mr Connolly sets out in that, or we do on his</p> <p>25 behalf, that he has been working positively with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 a number of charities on issues relating to child abuse</p> <p>2 and, as I mentioned earlier, he has addressed the</p> <p>3 House of Lords on this issue. He wrote a comprehensive.</p> <p>4 letter to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and there</p> <p>5 has not been a response.</p> <p>6 Mr Connolly's points that he makes are that he</p> <p>7 believes that the local authorities, in particular the</p> <p>8 London Borough of Tower Hamlets, lack the commitment to</p> <p>9 change and he says that, in his case, the partnership</p> <p>10 working arrangements restricted the reporting of abuse</p> <p>11 because there was no separation of social workers from</p> <p>12 abusers when the children were visited by social</p> <p>13 services.</p> <p>14 I submit it ought to be uncontentious that he is</p> <p>15 significantly and directly interested in how agencies</p> <p>16 interact with tower -- with Tower Hamlets today. He has</p> <p>17 sought to engage, as I say, with the London borough, but</p> <p>18 to no avail, and I submit it is important that he has</p> <p>19 an opportunity to engage in relation to what is being</p> <p>20 done today in respect of these issues through this</p> <p>21 inquiry process.</p> <p>22 The final of the eight themes is audit review and</p> <p>23 performance improvement.</p> <p>24 Now, we deal with that, chair, at page 8 of our</p> <p>25 written application. The question for the inquiry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

1 is: how has audit activity driven improvement? We say  
2 that Paul Connolly is concerned that there is no  
3 uniformity of response by authorities, he refers to what  
4 he calls a "postcode lottery", you get different levels  
5 of response depending on where you are. He says there's  
6 no whistleblowing ethos. I submit this eighth theme  
7 also forms part of the issues that Mr Connolly wishes  
8 the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to address, and that  
9 he has sought to pursue.

10 So I submit that, as Ms Hill mentioned earlier, this  
11 investigation will have a significant focus on the role  
12 of the police and local authorities.

13 It would appear that there is only one victim and  
14 survivor core participant at present. I submit that  
15 Mr Connolly, in particular, has a direct and significant  
16 interest in the aspects to which the inquiry relates and  
17 has played a direct and significant role in those  
18 matters.

19 Finally, chair, victims and survivors must always be  
20 at the forefront of this process. Rule 5 cannot, and  
21 should not, be used to shut them out. And in my  
22 submission, over all that I have said, I submit that  
23 that on its own is an exceptional circumstance why  
24 Mr Connolly should be permitted to fully participate in  
25 this investigation as a core participant, particularly

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1 for Women's Justice is a national level core  
2 participant. Ms Hill QC, in outlining, referred to  
3 Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation,  
4 Sarah Champion MP, Maggie Oliver and John Wedger.  
5 We are in the same category as a nationwide organisation  
6 but, for the reasons I'll go on to show, we have  
7 a particular and significant interest in relation to the  
8 majority of the identified thematic areas and the  
9 majority of the identified geographic areas here.

10 I'm very grateful to Mr Jacobs for indicating that  
11 this application is supported by his clients. The  
12 Centre for Women's Justice works very closely with  
13 Maggie Oliver, who is a core participant. I'll come on  
14 to that in a moment. We're also very grateful to have  
15 the support of Sarah Champion MP, whose work is greatly  
16 admired by the Centre for Women's Justice, so we're  
17 grateful that a number of the core participants  
18 recognise the value that the Centre for Women's Justice  
19 could add and that they support this application.

20 You'll be aware that we made an application, a short  
21 one, limited to four pages, 29 March. That's in tab 2  
22 of the bundle we've given you. It was provisionally  
23 refused on 24 April and we notified you of our intention  
24 to renew. The short submissions in relation to that are  
25 at tab 4.

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1 where his frustration is that he is being shut out of  
2 the process in relation to inquiries that he's making  
3 with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

4 Chair, that concludes my application, I have one  
5 point to add in relation to the application that you're  
6 about to hear from Ms Gallagher and I say that that  
7 application is fully supported by us. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Jacobs.  
9 Ms Gallagher?

10 Application by MS GALLAGHER

11 MR GALLAGHER: Thank you, chair and panel. This  
12 is a renewed application on behalf of the Centre for  
13 Women's Justice and we make it predominantly pursuant to  
14 rule 5(2)(b), ie, we submit that we have a significant  
15 interest in an important aspect of the matters to which  
16 this inquiry relates. I see you're flicking through the  
17 bundles, and may I say I understand from counsel to the  
18 investigation, Ms Hill, that our submissions and  
19 relevant documents are at tab 13 of your main bundle.  
20 I've been told that this morning and I'm very grateful.  
21 We've also taken the liberty of just putting together  
22 some of the key papers for you for your review later,  
23 the key documents I'll be referring to are at tabs 2, 3  
24 and 4 of that bundle.

25 I say at the outset that we submit that the Centre

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1 I intend to address you on three areas today:  
2 Firstly, briefly, on the work of the Centre for  
3 Women's Justice and its expertise, just as context.  
4 Secondly, the positive case, the basis for our  
5 application for core participant status.  
6 Then, thirdly, the negative case, the rebuttal of  
7 the reasons which we've been given in paragraph 8 of the  
8 provisional determination to refuse core participant  
9 status.

10 So, firstly, the work of the Centre for Women's  
11 Justice. CWJ is a specialist legal charity founded very  
12 recently in 2016 by Harriet Wistrich but, as many of you  
13 will know, it's certainly been punching above its weight  
14 since that time and it's been setting the national  
15 agenda in relation to violence against women and girls  
16 in many ways and, indeed, this week. It's a nationwide  
17 organisation, works across England and Wales, and it's  
18 core aim is to hold the state to account and to  
19 challenge discrimination against women and girls in the  
20 justice system and, in particular, it's focused on male  
21 violence against women and girls in the criminal justice  
22 system.

23 It undertakes that task in various ways detailed in  
24 our original application. It's paragraph 2.1. I don't  
25 ask you to turn it up, but I'll highlight a few

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1 examples. Bear in mind, these are not exhaustive and  
 2 we've given you some more information in the application  
 3 as to what it does.  
 4 Some of the examples are: it supports individuals  
 5 and groups who challenge institutions and laws that  
 6 perpetuate such violence -- that's often victims and  
 7 survivors or frontline organisations, it's also  
 8 whistleblowers like Maggie Oliver, so that's part of the  
 9 work -- it brings together women's groups, victims and  
 10 survivors, lawyers, academics and other experts in the  
 11 field of violence against women, and it monitors and  
 12 challenges trends in policy, practice and the law and  
 13 brings strategic challenges at a nationwide level or  
 14 locally, where appropriate.  
 15 The best way to describe it really is that much of  
 16 its work is essentially as a second-tier organisation,  
 17 working closely with first-tier, frontline organisations  
 18 around the country. That work between the Centre for  
 19 Women's Justice and those frontline organisations has  
 20 many forms. It involves one example which we gave in  
 21 the application, training frontline advocates on issues  
 22 which are likely to arise and equipping them to better  
 23 meet the needs of victims and survivors, which includes  
 24 adult women and also includes girls. It also involves  
 25 working with those frontline organisations to collate

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1 currently on three individual cases in Rochdale, which  
 2 involve now adult survivors who were abused as children  
 3 and exploited as children and, in at least one of those  
 4 cases, and we suspect all three, those individuals were  
 5 trafficked to St Helens. That's something which  
 6 I believe Maggie Oliver has raised, because she's also  
 7 working on those cases. So that's a theme which has  
 8 been identified.  
 9 Another theme which the Centre for Women's Justice  
 10 has identified from its national work with frontline  
 11 organisations is that in respect of Rape Crisis Centres  
 12 one of the common themes that is reported is that very  
 13 young women under the age of 18 are less likely to  
 14 secure justice than adult women. So there are some of  
 15 those themes on which the Centre for Women's Justice can  
 16 assist. I should indicate that the Centre for Women's  
 17 Justice also accepts referrals from those frontline  
 18 organisations, often works with individual victims and  
 19 survivors, as indeed it's doing in respect of Rochdale,  
 20 as it's doing in respect of Bristol. That then feeds  
 21 into its national policy work, including, for example,  
 22 the super-complaint which is referred to in our original  
 23 application.  
 24 Themes which are then identified -- like, for  
 25 example, repeat non-compliance with the Victims Code by

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1 data and identify trends which can then inform their  
 2 work at a national and international level. And indeed,  
 3 it's through that work that the centre has identified  
 4 a number of recurrent themes.  
 5 When we saw the thematic areas identified by your  
 6 legal team and by you, panel and chair, we weren't  
 7 surprised, because some of those themes are recurrent  
 8 themes which we see, the Centre for Women's Justice sees  
 9 in its work.  
 10 Just to give a couple of examples: in relation to  
 11 children with a disability, the Centre for Women's  
 12 Justice has seen in much of its work across the country  
 13 including in five of the six areas, which you have  
 14 focused upon, but not exclusively in those areas, it has  
 15 seen a recurrent trend of the targeting of victims who  
 16 have learning disabilities or mental health  
 17 difficulties, particularly children under the age of 18,  
 18 girls under the age of 18, and the work the Centre for  
 19 Women's Justice has done makes clear that they are far  
 20 more likely to be targeted by exploiters, far less  
 21 likely to then report, far less likely to then achieve  
 22 accountability and justice.  
 23 Indeed, in one of the individual cases that the  
 24 Centre for Women's Justice is working on currently, in  
 25 Rochdale, that issue precisely arises. They're working

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1 the CPS -- that's then fed into their national work and  
 2 a policy or litigation approach is taken to challenge  
 3 that.  
 4 Internationally, the Centre for Women's Justice has  
 5 just recently been involved in the UN (inaudible)  
 6 examination of the UK, working jointly with academics  
 7 who work in the field, so they've taken from one end of  
 8 the scale that frontline ground work, on-the-ground work  
 9 with organisations such as Nia in Tower Hamlets, Rape  
 10 Crisis Centres around the country, and they've taken it  
 11 to the highest level nationally and to the highest level  
 12 internationally. So it's a unique and powerful  
 13 organisation and, in some ways, it occurred to me, while  
 14 counsel to the inquiry was speaking, it's almost like  
 15 a civil society version of partnership working. It has  
 16 a unique and powerful role to play here.  
 17 An example of that is clear from what's happened in  
 18 the past few days. You will have seen in the news the  
 19 issue about disclosure and production of telephones and  
 20 iPads, and so on, to the police. The quote, which was  
 21 used very powerfully by Harriet Wistrich, the centre's  
 22 director, was of it being a digital strip-search. From  
 23 the centre's work, the centre has identified that that  
 24 is directly relevant to this strand, because very young  
 25 women, girls, are particularly impacted by that policy,

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<p>1 because many of the women whom they work with are girls  2 who are groomed in a gang environment and who have  3 a concern that, if their documents or their materials  4 are passed over, they may well be prosecuted for  5 gang-related crimes, and that's a particular barrier to  6 accessing justice and reporting for this very group that  7 you're looking at. That's something very powerfully in  8 the papers in the last numbers of days, which you've  9 seen, which ties directly into this work.</p> <p>10 Secondly, I want to turn to the basis for our  11 application. We made four original points in our  12 application and I've got two to add, so I'll make six  13 points and I'll take it relatively briefly, given the  14 volume of documents you have from us.</p> <p>15 The first point is at paragraph 3.2 onwards of our  16 original application. The first point is that the  17 centre's very raison d'etre is intimately connected to  18 the issue of institutional responses to violence against  19 women and girls, which of course includes child sexual  20 exploitation of girls. Since the centre's inception,  21 that has been their focus. They have focused upon seven  22 of the eight thematic areas identified in paragraph 5 of  23 the update note, the only exception being the male  24 children theme, because their work has a gender focus.  25 So that is at the heart of what they do and that makes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 them very unusual, even within the pool of experts in  2 this room, because their focus is exclusively upon those  3 topics.</p> <p>4 Secondly, it's a nationwide organisation working  5 across England and Wales. It's been working closely on  6 that background, contextual information which was  7 referred to by Ms Hill in opening and it then takes that  8 into its local working.</p> <p>9 They have links with, and work with, Rape Crisis and  10 child sexual abuse support services in five out of the  11 six geographical areas identified in paragraph 6 of the  12 update note. We've set that out in our application, but  13 can I give you some further information about three of  14 those areas, because I realise, in paragraph 3.3, it may  15 sound as if they only do training with those  16 organisations and that's not in fact right.</p> <p>17 The three that I want to highlight are  18 Tower Hamlets, St Helens and Bristol.</p> <p>19 So Tower Hamlets, we've provided you in our small  20 bundle with some information from Nia, the frontline  21 organisation in Tower Hamlets. Nia and the Centre for  22 Women's Justice work intimately closely together in  23 individual cases and on policy challenges. They've  24 intervened in cases together, for example, raising  25 general thematic issues, and they work very closely</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>
<p>1 together. The Centre for Women's Justice works with  2 a large number of individuals within that area who  3 provide support services to victims and survivors and  4 with individual survivors.</p> <p>5 Their work with Nia also identifies this, of course,  6 is not a contemporary problem, it goes well back in  7 time, and many of the themes they've identified in their  8 work are recurrent, so some of the issues -- for  9 example, about failure to conduct appropriate interviews  10 when people have gone missing from care and then return  11 to care -- are themes which Nia and the Centre for  12 Women's Justice have been working on for some time.</p> <p>13 You may have heard of the "I'm no criminal" research  14 which specifically raises concerns about the issue of  15 individuals who have convictions for street  16 prostitution, often resulting from child sexual  17 exploitation, which then dog them into adulthood. One  18 of the issues which the Centre for Women's Justice is  19 particularly concerned about is the issue of empathy for  20 child victims, but also empathy for adult victims who  21 are reporting historic offences, and much of their work  22 in Tower Hamlets is very focused upon that.</p> <p>23 I mentioned also St Helens and Bristol. In respect  24 of St Helens -- and we can give further detail if  25 helpful -- I've mentioned they're working with three</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 individuals, at least one of whom was certainly  2 trafficked to St Helens. In addition, they're working  3 closely with the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre --  4 RASASC -- for Cheshire and Merseyside and the Rape and  5 Sexual Abuse -- RASA -- Centre in Merseyside. We've  6 indicated in the application that training has been  7 provided in July 2019, but that's only one part of the  8 very close working which is going on at a national level  9 between the centre and at a local level in St Helens.</p> <p>10 I should also say in respect of the individual cases  11 upon which there's very close collaborative working with  12 Maggie Oliver that, inevitably, there's some material  13 arising from that challenge which can't be shared with  14 Maggie Oliver, but which the Centre for Women's Justice  15 does have. So this isn't duplicative in some way, we're  16 performing different roles in that work.</p> <p>17 The third example I wanted to give is Bristol. You  18 may be aware of the challenge that's been taken, the  19 test case that's been taken, by the Centre for Women's  20 Justice in respect of prostitution convictions for  21 women. One of those claimants -- that case is currently  22 in the Court of Appeal -- is from Bristol. Her  23 conviction arises from child sexual exploitation. So at  24 its heart, there's a particular issue there and that's  25 an addition to the point we've made in our application</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>



<p>1 about the working which is being undertaken in Bristol 2 in the south-west with Safe Link Bristol and with One25 3 in Bristol. So that's a brief outline there. 4 In respect of our expertise in the thematic areas, 5 we've indicated we have expertise in a significant 6 interest in seven of the thematic areas, and there's 7 four of them in particular on which we think we could 8 add real value and we could add particular value through 9 the rule 10 procedure and through the process of being 10 able to see all disclosure, make submissions and make 11 recommendations. 12 The four we highlighted in our application 13 were: empathy and concern for child victims; risk 14 assessment and protection from harm; children with 15 a disability; partnership working on child sexual 16 exploitation. 17 The reason we've highlighted those is because they 18 are particular focuses of the work which is being done 19 by the Centre for Women's Justice at a nationwide level 20 and they're also areas which form a particular focus of 21 the work that's being done in those five out of six 22 geographical areas that we've identified, including 23 St Helens, Tower Hamlets and Bristol. In respect of 24 partnership working on child sexual exploitation, much 25 of the centre's work concerns a breakdown in partnership</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 working on child sexual exploitation, and many of the 2 themes which they've identified are common to 3 a breakdown in partnership working when it comes to 4 other forms of gendered violence, such as, for example, 5 domestic violence and exploitation of vulnerable adults. 6 So it is right, as was said in the provisional 7 refusal, that their work isn't focused solely on girls, 8 because their work has a gender focus, it's focused on 9 girls and women. Many of the themes which they identify 10 in their work are common to women. They're common to 11 women and girls, but some of them are child-specific. 12 We say that's, in fact, a strength of this application, 13 not a weakness. 14 On children with a disability, there's particular 15 work which they've been doing. I think, given the time, 16 I can't give you more detail, but if there's a concern 17 that we don't have specific expertise in that, we can 18 certainly provide you with much more detail on that if 19 that's a concern. 20 On risk assessment and protection from harm, this 21 again goes back to the very focus of the Centre for 22 Women's Justice's work because it focuses upon the 23 criminal justice system, it focuses upon failures in 24 respect of police, often at a national level, sometimes 25 at local level, including in these five areas, and it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>
<p>1 focuses on failures by the CPS. They also do work in 2 relation to local authorities and partnership working, 3 but much of their focus on where we think they can add 4 real value concerns the role of the criminal justice 5 system. 6 The fourth point we made is we're conscious that in 7 other strands specialist NGOs have assisted the inquiry 8 with gathering evidence from individual victims and 9 survivors who don't have core participant status 10 themselves. I have very much in mind the Children 11 Outside the UK strand, where there weren't individual 12 victims or survivors with core participant status, but 13 ECPAT and Child Redress International assisted with 14 providing you with on-the-ground material. That's 15 a role which the Centre for Women's Justice is very 16 happy to do as a core participant. 17 Now, of course, we recognise that we could, in 18 theory, assist you with some of that work as a witness 19 rather than solely as a core participant, but it's 20 a role which we could do far better as a core 21 participant and in a more targeted way because we'd have 22 access to the disclosure, we'd be able to target and 23 make concrete suggestions which relate to the material 24 before you and be fully engaged in a way which we simply 25 can't do no matter how good Harriet's statement is.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 Harriet Wistrich turning up and giving evidence on one 2 day will only be based upon a very small proportion of 3 the material before you. As a core participant, we 4 could do that role far better. 5 The fifth and sixth points are: 6 Fifth, the Centre for Women's Justice is uniquely 7 focused upon remedies, and that's a particular reason 8 why we think we can add value as a core participant in 9 respect of the important role core participants play in 10 assisting you with potential recommendations. We 11 suspect that some of the other core participants in this 12 strand may be more focused upon identifying problems and 13 gap. Because of the role the Centre for Women's 14 Justice plays it's uniquely well-placed to make 15 recommendations on remedies and recommendations on your 16 ultimate recommendations, a core part of your role, and 17 we say that that also is an exceptional and unique 18 feature which we have. 19 Sixth, and very related to that, we agree entirely 20 with the point which Mr Jacobs made. It is a matter of 21 some concern to the Centre for Women's Justice that it 22 appears only one victim or survivor as an individual is 23 in this strand as a core participant, but CWJ is well 24 placed to ensure that the voices and interests of 25 victims and survivors in five of those six geographical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 areas, and informed by the voices and interests of  
2 victims and survivors more broadly across England and  
3 Wales, can be at the heart of this process.  
4 The final category I wanted to turn to relates to  
5 rebuttal, and I'll take this very briefly, I'm conscious  
6 of the time.  
7 We gave an indication in our submission earlier this  
8 week of a number of rebuttal points. I can take this  
9 shortly. I'm not sure if you've had a chance to look at  
10 the reasons we got a provisional refusal, but it's  
11 centred in paragraph 8 of the provisional refusal  
12 determination. It says:  
13 "I do not consider that the CWJ's application has  
14 demonstrated a sufficient interest in the specific CSE  
15 issues and/or geographical areas selected for this  
16 investigation."  
17 So our submission is that is simply unsustainable in  
18 circumstances where the Centre for Women's Justice works  
19 so closely on all but one of the themes and works so  
20 closely in all but one of the geographical areas. It's  
21 simply not sustainable in any event.  
22 There's then three specific reasons given, none of  
23 which we say stand up to scrutiny. The first one is  
24 that the cases quoted at paragraphs 2.2 to 2.3 of the  
25 application, and the super-complaint, referred to at

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1 a subset of that work and they had made the same  
2 complaint, which is contained in the super-complaint,  
3 solely about Tower Hamlets, solely about girls under 18,  
4 it appears we'd be in, and that's just not a sustainable  
5 position to adopt.  
6 The second point which is made is that the work with  
7 local organisations is not specific to the issue of CSE  
8 of women and girls. Again, this is a flawed approach,  
9 it's suggesting that by having a gendered approach to  
10 violence against women and girls that's being held  
11 against the centre. That simply cannot be right. It  
12 cannot be right in part because violence against women  
13 and girls in that prism, looking at these issues through  
14 a gendered lens, is at the heart of the Government's  
15 approach to these issues -- and we've provided you with  
16 the Government's strategy on ending violence against  
17 women and girls and its update, its refresh  
18 from March 2019 in our bundle -- it's at the heart of  
19 the work by UN Women, it's also at the heart of the work  
20 by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child when it  
21 comes to violence against girls and the girl child.  
22 So it's simply not sustainable to adopt a position  
23 of will you deal with adult women too because that  
24 really undermines the core focus which is rightly  
25 adopted at UN level and national level, and indeed by

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1 paragraph 2.6, don't bear directly on these specific  
2 issues or areas. We make two responses to that. The  
3 first one is that that was material provided to assist  
4 you with understanding the role of the Centre for  
5 Women's Justice. So of course when reference was made  
6 to the work that Harriet Wistrich has done in respect of  
7 the Worboys case, we weren't suggesting that falls  
8 directly within this strand, it was given as an example  
9 of the type of work and the type of expertise that the  
10 Centre for Women's Justice and their lawyers,  
11 Harriet Wistrich and Kate Ellis, sitting beside me,  
12 have. But the second and more important point is that  
13 the criticism about the super-complaint is a poor one.  
14 So saying that the super-complaint doesn't bear directly  
15 on these specific issues or areas is incorrect when you  
16 look at the super-complaint. The super-complaint  
17 relates to violence against women and girls, and  
18 a systematic, nationwide failure to appropriately deal  
19 with violence against women and girls, it draws upon  
20 work in those local areas and the result, the thematic  
21 result, are these failures. Now, much of it is focused  
22 upon women, adult women, and much of it is also focused  
23 upon girls, and the criticism appears to be it's not  
24 specific to girls or it's not specific to these areas.  
25 So if, rather than a super-complaint, they had done

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1 the EU in its spotlight work with the UN, which  
2 recognises the gendered aspect of many of these issues.  
3 The third point which is made is that the Centre for  
4 Women's Justice may well be able to assist the inquiry  
5 in obtaining witness evidence that doesn't require  
6 a grant of CP status. In answer to that our submission  
7 is that the test which must be applied is whether we  
8 meet the criteria set out in rule 5(2)(b), and that is  
9 whether we have a significant interest in these issues.  
10 It would be quite wrong to suggest that because witness  
11 evidence could be given somehow we don't have  
12 a significant interest; it is unsustainable to suggest  
13 that the centre does not have a significant interest in  
14 these issues and these areas.  
15 We will, in addition, be able to assist you far more  
16 as a core participant, seeing full disclosure, being  
17 able to use the rule 10 application process and to make  
18 recommendations and submissions.  
19 The real reason for this application by the Centre  
20 for Women's Justice is to assist this inquiry with what  
21 we recognise is a critical issue, and to assist your  
22 legal team, and we very much hope, as a core  
23 participant, we will be able to do that and we will be  
24 able to put the voices of the victims and survivors who  
25 the centre works with across the country at the heart of

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1 this process.  
 2 Thank you.  
 3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Gallagher.  
 4 Submissions by MR JACOBS  
 5 MR JACOBS: I've been asked to clarify two points.  
 6 Firstly, Mr Connolly is age 56 years old. He was in  
 7 care from the age of 2 weeks old and at St Leonard's  
 8 from the ages of 8 to 20.  
 9 Secondly, if I can clarify that Mr Connolly did  
 10 receive a written apology via Howe & Co following the  
 11 oral apology in the accountability and reprobation  
 12 hearing. His point is that he hasn't had a response to  
 13 his correspondence in relation to proposals and  
 14 recommendations which we deal with at paragraph 11.7 of  
 15 our new application.  
 16 Thank you.  
 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Jacobs. Thank you.  
 18 Ms Champion, do you have something to say? Briefly,  
 19 please.  
 20 Submissions by MS CHAMPION  
 21 MS CHAMPION: Chair, I would briefly like to speak in  
 22 support of the CWJ application.  
 23 Firstly, when I look down the list of core  
 24 participants, I am making an assumption that many of  
 25 them will be taking a defensive position. I'm not

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1 breaches of the restriction orders that take place  
 2 inadvertently.  
 3 Chair, as you know, on 18 June last year you gave  
 4 a further ruling indicating that, subject to any  
 5 specific application or ruling to the contrary, or and  
 6 ruling to the contrary, the earlier April 2016 ruling  
 7 would be adopted in all other investigations that there  
 8 would be a three not a five minute delay.  
 9 Chair, the issue of broadcasting was put on the  
 10 agenda for today's hearing. At the time of writing my  
 11 note, and in fact speaking now, I think no core  
 12 participant has objected to this, so I don't understand  
 13 there to be any issue around the usual broadcasting  
 14 direction.  
 15 Chair, finally then in terms of future timetabling  
 16 and hearing logistics, obviously the inquiry will  
 17 continue to review the evidence that's been provided in  
 18 response to rule 9 requests, and we'll be sending out  
 19 further new rule 9 requests, including in respect of  
 20 some of those who have made applications for core  
 21 participant status. Of course, once material has been  
 22 received by the inquiry and identified as relevant, it  
 23 will be redacted and ciphered in the usual way. For  
 24 those who aren't familiar with the inquiry's protocol on  
 25 the redaction of documents, it is on the website, and

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1 seeing equal representation for the voice of the  
 2 victims, and I would like CWJ to be there to support  
 3 myself and others in that role.  
 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Champion. Ms Hill?  
 5 MS HILL: Thank you, chair.  
 6 Chair, it's obviously for you to reflect on the  
 7 arguments that have been made and to give final  
 8 determinations. You may also wish to consider making  
 9 directions with respect to applications for awards of  
 10 legal expenses or other expenses under section 40,  
 11 addressing the usual provisions in the inquiry's cost  
 12 protocol after the hearing. Chair, we would suggest  
 13 that you direct, after the hearing, that any core  
 14 participant who wishes to make an application for an  
 15 award of legal expenses should do so by 4 pm on 16 May,  
 16 would be our proposal.  
 17 Chair, taking, if I may, the final two items on the  
 18 agenda. Fourth is that of broadcasting. Chair, of  
 19 course, as you know, in April 2016 you gave a general  
 20 ruling in relation to the broadcasting of public  
 21 hearings so that generally, for anonymous witnesses,  
 22 a live stream of their audio, of the sound of their  
 23 voice is played, but there is, as you know, a delay in  
 24 proceedings that are broadcast of, it was originally  
 25 five minutes, to prevent any difficulties around

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1 includes a range of provisions around when it's  
 2 necessary to redact details, when it's necessary to  
 3 apply a cipher, that are all set out in the protocol.  
 4 Once material has been redacted and ciphered, of  
 5 course it will be disclosed to core participants in the  
 6 usual way. We anticipate that that disclosure will take  
 7 place in a series of tranches commencing later this  
 8 year, in the latter part of 2019. It's likely there  
 9 will be a further preliminary hearing in this  
 10 investigation at some point. Of course, as for the  
 11 normal course of events in the hearings, there will be  
 12 provision made for opening statements, indications about  
 13 topics for witnesses, proposals for read evidence and  
 14 closing statements in the usual way, as well as, of  
 15 course, rule 10 applications.  
 16 So, chair, those are all the observations I wish to  
 17 make. You may wish to ask the core participants and  
 18 prospective core participants if they have anything to  
 19 say.  
 20 THE CHAIR: I will do so.  
 21 Mr Jacobs, anything to add?  
 22 Submissions by MR JACOBS  
 23 MR JACOBS: Chair, yes. In relation to Maggie Oliver, we  
 24 take the view that early disclosure of evidence would  
 25 enable this core participant to assist the inquiry

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1 greatly as she has substantial expertise, independent  
2 and unconstrained expertise, as a former senior police  
3 officer who played a significant part in uncovering and  
4 challenging child sex abuse in Rochdale, as you will no  
5 doubt be aware, chair.  
6 I ask for early disclosure in respect of our other  
7 core participant who was a former Metropolitan Police  
8 Detective, served for 25 years, and much of his career  
9 has been concerned with investigations related to child  
10 sex abuse, and he has particular expertise in organised  
11 networks in the Metropolitan area. He will able to,  
12 with his substantial expertise and unconstrained  
13 knowledge and experience, be in a position to assist the  
14 inquiry, if early disclosure can be provided.  
15 It's likely that both our core participants will be  
16 in a position to provide detailed evidence, and we would  
17 like to start that process sooner rather than later.  
18 So that's two core participants who I represent  
19 today, John Wedger and Maggie Oliver.  
20 In relation to Maggie Oliver, we understand that she  
21 is in contact with a number of young girls who have  
22 recently been groomed by organised networks. They were  
23 not aware of the requirement to make core participant  
24 applications, and those who instruct me are going to  
25 explore whether core participant applications can be

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1 Submissions by MS PARRY  
2 MS PARRY: Chair, yes.  
3 In respect of Mr Connolly's application and the  
4 submissions made in support of that application,  
5 Tower Hamlets doesn't derogate from the powerful  
6 evidence that Mr Connolly has given to another strand of  
7 this inquiry. But Tower Hamlets can't possibly comment  
8 on an application it hasn't seen; we weren't on notice  
9 of the proposal that we support that application.  
10 I would like, however, to correct a number of  
11 factual inaccuracies in the submissions made, because  
12 this hearing is a matter of public record.  
13 The first is that a public apology was given by our  
14 Divisional Director of Children's Services,  
15 Richard Baldwin, in his evidence on 4 December, which  
16 chair and panel may recall. After that evidence was  
17 given there was a lengthy meeting at court with  
18 Mr Connolly on the same date, attended by Mr Connolly's  
19 solicitor, who was present, and Ms Williams, who is with  
20 me today, from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.  
21 Tower Hamlets then wrote to Mr Connolly through his  
22 solicitor by letter dated 13 December renewing that  
23 apology, and also published the apology quote given by  
24 Mr Baldwin by forwarding that to the local media.  
25 Finally, a letter was sent on 15 March this year to

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1 made, if those young girls of course are brave enough to  
2 come forward. It's not only that they have been  
3 recently groomed by organised groups, but they are  
4 currently experiencing institutional failures in  
5 relation to that organised network grooming. So they do  
6 fall squarely within the process.  
7 So I wanted to put on record that there may well be  
8 some applications, and we would ask that the inquiry  
9 entertains them, notwithstanding that the window has  
10 been closed.  
11 So that's all I have to say in relation to further  
12 submissions.  
13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Jacobs.  
14 Ms Champion, do you have anything to add?  
15 MS CHAMPION: No.  
16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.  
17 Ms Walker?  
18 MS WALKER: No, thank you.  
19 THE CHAIR: Ms Hannett?  
20 MS HANNETT: No.  
21 THE CHAIR: Mr Berry?  
22 MR BERRY: No.  
23 THE CHAIR: Mr Dunlop?  
24 MR DUNLOP: No, thank you.  
25 THE CHAIR: Ms Parry?

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1 Mr Connolly renewing the apology and offering to meet  
2 with him, making available our Mayor and Chief Executive  
3 to meet and speak with him. That offer remains open,  
4 Tower Hamlets is available to meet with Mr Connolly  
5 whenever he wishes to.  
6 Nothing further.  
7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.  
8 MR JACOBS: Sorry, if I could just come back.  
9 We accept that, yes, an apology has been given,  
10 a written apology, as I have already said.  
11 Mr Connolly's point is that his detailed proposals that  
12 he says he put in correspondence have not been responded  
13 to and he's anxious about that.  
14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, that's noted. Mr Cook?  
15 MR COOK: No.  
16 THE CHAIR: Mr Ford?  
17 MR FORD: No.  
18 THE CHAIR: Ms Rollason?  
19 MS ROLLASON: No.  
20 THE CHAIR: Mr Sharland?  
21 MR SHARLAND: No.  
22 THE CHAIR: Finally, Ms Harrison?  
23 MS HARRISON: Chair, I would just like to say Ms Gallagher  
24 on behalf of the Centre for Women's Justice has  
25 advocated powerful reasons why they should have core

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<p>1 participant status, which we fully support having heard                  2 her submissions. I think that the expertise of the                  3 Centre for Women's Justice will be invaluable for this                  4 inquiry.                  5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I should ask Ms Gallagher if you                  6 have anything further to say.                  7 MR GALLAGHER: No, thank you.                  8 MS HILL: Chair, it would be appropriate to ask Mr Jacobs,                  9 I think in respect of his prospective client, if he had                  10 anything to add on the substantive issues.                  11 MR JACOBS: No, I don't.                  12 MS HILL: Forgive me, prospective CP, actual client, but you                  13 know what I'm talking about.                  14 MR JACOBS: On the prospective CP, no further submissions,                  15 chair.                  16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.                  17 Well, thanks to everyone for attending today and for                  18 your very helpful submissions. We've covered very                  19 important ground and we will take into account very                  20 carefully everything that has been said.                  21 Thank you, that concludes this preliminary hearing.                  22 (11.40 am)                  23 (The hearing concluded)                  24                  25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 I N D E X                  2                  3 Welcome and opening remarks by THE .....2                  CHAIR                  4 Opening remarks by MS HILL .....3                  5 Application by MR JACOBS .....14                  6 Application by MS GALLAGHER .....23                  7 Submissions by MR JACOBS .....42                  8 Submissions by MS CHAMPION .....42                  9 Submissions by MR JACOBS .....45                  10 Submissions by MS PARRY .....48                  11                  12                  13                  14                  15                  16                  17                  18                  19                  20                  21                  22                  23                  24                  25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>
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