



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 2 May 2019 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated a core participant in the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 13 June 2019.
2. On 15 May 2019 an application was made by **PR-A1** for core participant status in this investigation.
3. I made a provisional ruling declining PR-A1's application on 5 July 2019. PR-A1 was provided with an opportunity to renew the application. PR-A1 did not renew the application. Accordingly, this notice sets out my final determination of the application.
4. The Inquiry has published a [definition of scope](#) of investigation and an [update note](#) which provides further information about the themes that will be examined and structure of the investigation. This investigation will be thematic in nature and examine the nature and adequacy of current child protection policies, practices and procedures within religious organisations and settings within England and Wales.
5. 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



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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.

6. In determining the 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.
7. The application is put on the basis that PR-A1 experienced sexual abuse as a child in a religious setting. The abuse is alleged to have taken place in the context of a Baptist Church young people's group, with the perpetrator being an older female member of the group. PR-A1 has concerns about the way the matter was handled by the Church and notes the impact that this had on him.
8. In the application, PR-A1 sets out four issues that he wishes the investigation to consider: (i) the potential access to younger children by young adults within Church groups for young people; (ii) the disposal/retention of Church records, particularly concerning the names of Church leaders in the context of child sexual abuse disclosures and investigations; (iii) considering the risk posed by female potential abusers as equal to the risk posed by males when considering effective child protection processes; (iv) perceived failures by Church leaders to disclose to parents and external agencies, including the police, when concerns arise, in preference to internal investigation and resolution within the Church, and the potential impact of this on the victim.
9. I consider that PR-A1's application does not meet the criteria set out in Rule 5(2)(a) or (b) for designation as a core participant in this investigation. As set out in the update note, this investigation will not examine individual case studies or particular religious organisations, as the focus is upon organisational structures and child protection practices. Instead it will look at whether there are common issues across religious organisations and settings and how they can be met and overcome. Whilst I



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appreciate that PR-A1 may be able to provide information about these matters, I do not consider that he has a significant interest in or played a direct and significant role in the overarching themes being examined in this investigation.

10. I should make clear that it is not necessary for an individual or organisation to be a core participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry. The Inquiry will consider in due course whether it wishes to obtain witness evidence from PR-A1 in connection with this investigation.

11. I will keep the scope of the investigation and the designation of core participants under review as the Inquiry progresses and further invitations to apply for core participant status may be made as the investigation proceeds. My decision not to designate PR-A1 as a core participant in this particular investigation does not preclude him from making a future application in respect of any investigation. I will consider any future application which PR-A1 wishes to make on its merits.

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

7 August 2019