



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 13 June 2019 an application was made by **PR-A9** for core participant status in this investigation.
3. I made a provisional ruling declining the application on 5 July 2019. PR-A9 was provided with an opportunity to renew his application at a preliminary hearing on 23 July 2019.
4. I have now had the opportunity to carefully consider the following:
 - a. The written application made by PR-A9 for core participant status dated 13 June 2019;
 - a. Additional written information provided by PR-A9 on 17 July 2019;
 - a. Oral submissions made on PR-A9's behalf by Thomas Beale on 23 July 2019.
5. I have reminded myself of the statutory criteria that govern the determination of core participant status, in Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. PR-A9 relies on the provisions in Rule 5(2)(a) and (b), which direct me to consider whether a person has played a direct and significant role in matters to which the Inquiry relates or whether a person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Inquiry relates.
6. The application by PR-A9 is made on the basis that he is a former elder of a Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in England and Wales, and his daughter and another family member were both victims of child sexual abuse perpetrated by an elder in the Jehovah's Witnesses.



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7. In PR-A9's renewed application it was submitted that PR-A9 was a senior member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as being a survivor of abuse himself and the father of a survivor. As a result it was submitted that he had important evidence to give about his experience of the response of the Jehovah's Witnesses to allegations of child sexual abuse.
8. In my provisional determination dated 5 July 2019, I set out my provisional view that PR-A9 did not meet the criteria in Rule 5(2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 for designation as a core participant because this investigation will focus upon organisational structures and child protection practices and not upon individual cases.
9. I consider that I have not had placed before me any material to cause me to change my provisional view that PR-A9 does not have a significant interest and has not played a direct role in the broader and overarching themes of this particular investigation. I note that the renewed application was based upon PR-A9's role within the Jehovah's Witnesses and his experience of their response to allegations of child sexual abuse. I have taken into consideration the fact that core participant status has been granted to the group *Ex-JW Advocates Opposing Crimes Against Children*, which works with former elders within the Jehovah's Witnesses, and James Lloyd Evans, who is a former elder and founder of the website *JWSurvey.org*.
10. I am therefore not satisfied that PR-A9 fulfils the criteria in Rule 5(2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 or that there are other good reasons to designate PR-A9 as a core participant in this investigation.
11. As I made clear in my provisional determination, 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 in due course consider whether it wishes to make a formal request for witness evidence from PR-A9.



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12. 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-A9 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-A9 wishes to make on its merits.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE

7 August 2019

Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse