



# 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 3 June 2019 an application was made by **PR-A7** and **PR-A8** for core participant status in this investigation.
3. I made a provisional ruling declining PR-A7 and PR-A8's application on 5 July 2019. They were provided with an opportunity to renew the application. They 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*



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*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.*

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-A7 and PR-A8 experienced sexual abuse over a number of years whilst they were children within a Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in England and Wales. The abuse was perpetrated by a ministerial servant and then elder, who was eventually convicted for the abuse. The application submits that PR-A7 and PR-A8 will be able to provide evidence in relation to their experience of 'confronting your abuser' and 'judicial committees', the practice of the 'two witness rule', and their experience of being disfellowshipped and automatically shunned by other Jehovah's Witnesses within the community.
8. I consider that PR-A7 and PR-A8'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 appreciate that PR-A7 and PR-A8 may be able to provide information about these matters, I do not consider that they have a significant interest in or played a direct and significant role in the overarching themes being examined in this investigation.
9. 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. PR-A7 and PR-A8 may



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have relevant information to give in relation to the themes being considered in this investigation and the Inquiry will consider in due course whether it wishes to make formal requests for witness evidence from PR-A7 and PR-A8.

10. 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-A7 and PR-A8 as core participants in this particular investigation does not preclude them from making future applications in respect of any investigation. I will consider any future application which PR-A7 or PR-A8 wish to make on its merits.

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

**7 August 2019**