



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 28 May 2019 an application was made by **Ex-JW Advocates Opposing Crimes Against Children** (the 'Applicant'). This notice sets out my determination of the application.
3. 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.
4. 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 –



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- a. the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*
- b. the end of the inquiry.*

5. 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.
6. The Applicant is a group of survivors of child sexual abuse, former elders and former member activists, within Jehovah's Witnesses religious organisations in the UK. The group runs a website and a Facebook group providing resources and support to those affected by issues including child sexual abuse within Jehovah's Witnesses congregations, and advocates for change and raises awareness in relation to safeguarding policy and the handling of child sexual abuse allegations within Jehovah's Witnesses organisations in the UK.
7. The application is made on the basis that the Applicant played a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates because the Applicant represents survivors of child sexual abuse within Jehovah's Witnesses religious organisations in the UK, and the group has knowledge of how child protection policies and procedures work in practice and the culture and understanding in relation to child sexual abuse within Jehovah's Witnesses organisations in the UK. Further, that the Applicant has a significant interest in important aspects of the matters to which the Inquiry relates because some of the survivors it represents have family members currently within Jehovah's Witnesses congregations in the UK.
8. Having regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2), I am satisfied that the Applicant has played a direct or significant role in relation to the matters under investigation and/or has a significant interest in the matters under investigation.
9. As set out in the update note, this investigation will focus upon organisational structures and child protection practices. It will look at whether there are common issues across religious organisations and settings and how they can be met and overcome.



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10. I understand that, given the Applicant represents survivors of child sexual abuse and former elders within Jehovah's Witnesses religious organisations in the UK, the group will be able to assist the Inquiry by providing information in relation to a range of victims and survivors of abuse within the religious community, and by offering insight in relation to child protection practices and procedures (including training and culture) within Jehovah's Witnesses organisations in the UK and how these can be improved. I am therefore satisfied that Ex-JW Advocates Opposing Crimes Against Children should be designated as a core participant in the Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings investigation.

11. Applications for designation as the recognised legal representative of a core participant are governed by Rules 6 and 7 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provide as follows:

6(1) Where -

- (a) a core participant, other than a core participant referred to in rule 7; or*
- (b) any other person required or permitted to give evidence or produce documents during the course of the inquiry,*
has appointed a qualified lawyer to act on that person's behalf, the chairman must designate that lawyer as that person's recognised legal representative in respect of the inquiry proceedings.

7(1) This rule applies where there are two or more core participants, each of whom seeks to be legally represented, and the chairman considers that -

- (a) their interests in the outcome of the inquiry are similar;*
- (b) the facts they are likely to rely on in the course of the inquiry are similar; and*
- (c) it is fair and proper for them to be jointly represented.*

(2) The chairman must direct that those core participants shall be represented by a single recognised legal representative, and the chairman may designate a qualified lawyer for that purpose.



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(3) Subject to paragraph (4), any designation must be agreed by the core participants in question.

(4) If no agreement on a designation is forthcoming within a reasonable period, the chairman may designate an appropriate lawyer who, in his opinion, has sufficient knowledge and experience to act in this capacity.

12. I am satisfied that the Applicant has appointed Alan Collins of Hugh James Solicitors as its qualified lawyer in relation to this investigation. I therefore designate Mr Collins as the Applicant's recognised legal representative in accordance with Rule 6(1) as I am required by that rule to do.

13. Directions will be given for receipt of applications for an award under section 40(1)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 for expenses to be incurred in respect of legal representation at the forthcoming preliminary hearing. Such applications by core participants will be determined in accordance with the Inquiry's Costs Protocol on Legal Representation at Public Expense.

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

5 July 2019