



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 2 May 2019 the Inquiry published on its website a notification that anyone who wished to be designated a core participant in the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings should make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 13 June 2019. Preliminary hearings were held in July 2019 and January 2020 at which various core participant designations were announced.
2. On 4 March 2020 an application was made by Mr Andrew Haigh for core participant status in this investigation. 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 is thematic in nature and examines the nature and adequacy of current child protection policies, practices and procedures within religious organisations and settings within England and Wales at this point in time, and whether there needs to be additional or different forms of oversight of the practices of these organisations. It is not a general investigation into religious organisations, or to past specific incidents of child sexual abuse alleged to have occurred in some religious organisations.
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;*



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*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 –*

*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. This application has been lodged more than eight months after the deadline for core participant applications in this investigation. The public hearing in this investigation commences on 16 March 2020, which is only a week away. I have a discretion pursuant to Rule 5(1) to designate a core participant “at any time” during the course of the Inquiry. Mr Haigh has been working with a member of the House of Lords and I understand from Mr Haigh’s application that as a result of a restriction arising from his agreement with that member, he has not been able to apply any sooner. It should be noted that given the proximity of this application to the hearing, the vast majority of preparation and evidence gathering has already taken place, and the timetable is set. I recognise, however, that delay is only one factor that I may consider and the rules do not exclude applications made at a late stage.
7. Mr Haigh is the co-founder of the Michael Trust. The application is put on the basis that Mr Haigh and the Michael Trust play a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates and/or that they have a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates. Mr Haigh describes in his application that during the 1980s and early 1990s, he, as co-founder of the Michael Trust, infiltrated new religious movements and gangs and provided information to the police and other agencies. He states that, in the context of this work, he would often be asked to look at how children were being treated.



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8. Mr Haigh states that the Michael Trust was one of three organisations that challenged the claims of satanic ritual abuse in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He states that the Michael Trust had knowledge and contact with at least 300 religious or faith based groups and closed communities in the United Kingdom. Mr Haigh states that the Michael Trust has good communication with a number of these organisations including the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Church of Latter Day Saints and Islam. In his application, Mr Haigh directs the Inquiry to the Michael Trust website. There it is stated that the purpose of the Michael Trust is to 'encourage the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion and belief by upholding the Charter of the United Nations'.
9. Mr Haigh states that he speaks with the Jehovah's Witnesses regularly and he is well versed in their safeguarding practices. Between 2016 and 2019, Mr Haigh carried out a review report on behalf of select members of the House of Lords looking at how the police deal effectively with ethnic minorities, including those of the Muslim faith. This year, he will be starting a new report on how religious and faith communities engage with police and child welfare services and will be providing recommendations on how to improve communication.
10. I consider that Mr Haigh'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. This investigation is focussed on issues pertaining specifically to child protection in religious organisations and settings. Whilst I appreciate that Mr Haigh and the Michael Trust have experience working with religious organisations and settings over the course of many years, in my view Mr Haigh's work does not have a sufficient focus on child protection to warrant his designation as a core participant in this investigation. Mr Haigh emphasises his experience working with the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. As stated in the update note, this investigation is a thematic one; it is not examining any individual religious organisation as a case study. The focus is on organisational structures and child protection practices generally. In relation to the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, the Inquiry has received evidence from the organisation itself, a victim and survivor group



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as well as individual victims, survivors and advocates. Though Mr Haigh may be able to provide further information about the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, I do not consider that he has a significant interest in or that he has played a direct and significant role in the overarching themes being examined in this investigation.

11. 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. Since Mr Haigh's contact with the Inquiry, Mr Haigh has been sent a Rule 9 request for a statement. The Inquiry has recently received a statement from him which will be reviewed and considered for onward disclosure to core participants and for use in this investigation if it is relevant to the themes under examination.

12. My decision not to designate Mr Haigh as a core participant in this particular investigation does not preclude him from making a future application in respect of any other investigation. I will consider any future application which Mr Haigh wishes to make on its merits.

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

**12 March 2020**