



## Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings Investigation

### FINAL NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

#### May 2020 hearing

#### **Background**

1. The Inquiry's public hearing for the Investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings ("CPIROS") began on 16 March 2020 but was suspended after one day in order to comply with government guidance on the management of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
2. On 27 March 2020 the Solicitor to the Inquiry wrote to core participants in the CPIROS investigation setting out proposals to hold a virtual hearing in this investigation and inviting submissions on those proposals.
3. Having considered the submissions received from core participants, I issued a provisional determination, together with detailed reasons, on 6 April 2020.

#### **Final Determination**

4. The Solicitor to the Inquiry has now written to all witnesses from whom the Inquiry had proposed to hear in the CPIROS investigation to confirm (a) whether or not they can attend on the weeks of 11 May and 18 May 2020 and what adjustments and/or considerations may need to be made to make their evidence effective (b) if they cannot attend then their reasons for this and if they could attend in the week commencing 10 August 2020.
5. The vast majority of witnesses have confirmed that they are willing and available to provide evidence to the Inquiry in a virtual hearing in the weeks commencing 11 and 18 May 2020. Where adjustments have been requested, these can be accommodated.



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6. Submissions were received from the following individuals and organisations, repeating their objections in principle to the holding of a virtual hearing in May:
  - a. Lloyd Evans
  - b. Ex-JW Advocates Opposing Crimes Against Children
  - c. United Synagogue; and
  - d. PR-A5, who is a witness but not a core participant.
  
7. The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board, and a number of the mosques due to give evidence also noted that the dates in May selected would fall within the holy month of Ramadan.
  
8. Having considered all of the responses received, I am satisfied that the CPIROS investigation should proceed by virtual hearing commencing on 11 May 2020. Doing so is both desirable and practicable.
  
9. A revised hearing timetable will be prepared and, wherever possible, witnesses' availability and personal, or religious, obligations will be accommodated. For some individuals and organisations this has meant that their evidence will be heard within the additional week set aside for evidence commencing on 10 August 2020. How or where that hearing will be conducted will depend upon the prevailing circumstances and government guidance in place at that time. The situation will be kept under review and a further update will be circulated closer to the time.
  
10. Accordingly, I make the following final determination:
  - a. The CPIROS hearing will be relisted to commence on **11 May 2020** for two weeks.
  
  - b. Further details about the practicalities of the virtual hearing, including a revised timetable, will be circulated by the Solicitor to the Inquiry.



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- c. A further hearing week will be listed on **10 August 2020**. This will either be in person or a virtual hearing depending upon the governmental restrictions in place at the time.

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

**16 April 2020**