

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**

1. On 5 January 2016 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated as a core participant in the Cambridge House, Knowl View and Rochdale investigation to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 5 February 2016.
2. On 4 February 2016, an application was made by Rochdale Borough Council (the “Council”) for core participant status in the Cambridge House, Knowl View and Rochdale investigation and for John Riddell of Weightmans LLP to be their recognised legal representative. This notice sets out my determination of the application.
3. 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 –*
 - a. *the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*
 - b. *the end of the inquiry.*

4. 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 other relevant matters into account.
5. Having regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2), I am satisfied that the Council should be designated as a core participant in relation to Cambridge House, Knowl View and Rochdale investigation. In so doing I observe that the focus of this investigation will, to a very significant degree (but not exclusively), focus upon the acts and omissions of the Council and how these may have left children vulnerable to sexual abuse.
6. As is set out in its application (and is in any event well known) the Council either had joint or sole responsibility for the management of Knowl View School. In relation to Cambridge House Boys' Hostel the Council (a) had general responsibility for any child at risk in Rochdale, including a number of boys that the Council placed in Cambridge House and (b) gave financial assistance toward Cambridge House's running costs.
7. Amongst other matters, the Inquiry will investigate whether boys who resided (or otherwise attended), at Cambridge House and, or Knowl View were put at risk of sexual abuse. Given the centrality of the Council's role in the running of Knowl View School; its responsibilities for children at risk who were pupils there and its overarching responsibilities for safeguarding, it is plain that the Council played a direct and significant role in relation to matters under investigation.
8. Similarly, given that the Council was responsible for placing children in Cambridge House; its responsibilities for children at risk in general and for those children placed in Cambridge House; that the Council provided funding to Cambridge House and had overarching responsibilities for safeguarding, I am satisfied that the Council played a direct and significant role in relation to matters under investigation.
9. Additionally, this investigation will consider any failures on the part of the Council or its officers to appropriately and adequately respond to information that children in the care of the Council were being sexually abused and any response, or failing of the Council in relation to such abuse. I am also satisfied that the Council has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters under investigation and that it may also be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the Inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.

10. For all of these reasons I am satisfied that the Council should be a core participant having regard to Rule 5(2)(a), (b) and (c).

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.

(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 Council has appointed John Riddell of Weightmans LLP as their qualified lawyer, I therefore designate Mr Riddell as the Council'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 public hearing. Such applications by core participants will be determined in accordance with the Inquiry's Cost Protocol on Legal Representation at Public Expense.

Hon. Dame Lowell Goddard DNZM
Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

29 February 2016