

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**

1. On 3 June 2016 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated as a core participant in the Accountability and Reparations investigation to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 1 July 2016.
2. An application was made by Billhar Singh Uppal of Uppal Taylor Solicitors for core participant status in the Accountability and Reparations investigation. This notice sets out my determination of his 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 each person's 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.

5. Having regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2), I am not satisfied that Billhar Singh Uppal fulfils the criteria in Rule 5(2) or that there are other good reasons to designate him as core participant.
6. Mr Uppal's application is put in terms of his specialist knowledge as a claimant practitioner dealing with non-recent child abuse litigation. He states that he has represented clients all over England and Wales involving abuse at care homes, residential schools, foster carers, within the family environment and the within the Church. He also states that he represented former residents of North Wales Children's Homes before the Waterhouse Inquiry, in criminal prosecutions and as lead solicitor in the civil litigation. He continues to represent clients in relation on ongoing litigation relating to the North Wales Children's Homes. Finally, Mr Uppal indicates that he has brought hundreds of claims before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority on behalf of victims of sexual abuse, including victims of the North Wales Children's Homes.
7. Whilst recognising the work that he has undertaken in relation to the North Wales Children's Homes and his experience of acting for clients during those proceedings, I am not presently minded to designate him as a core participant in this case studies investigation. I consider that Mr Uppal is best placed to assist the Inquiry as a witness rather than as a core participant. He will be able to provide the Inquiry with cogent evidence of his experience acting for his clients to this case studies investigation. Mr Uppal will also be in a position to assist the Inquiry through submitting responses to the two issues papers on the civil justice system and criminal compensation, that are currently open for responses from the general public.
8. At the preliminary hearing on 29 July 2016, submissions were made on behalf of Mr Uppal, although this was the first time that the application had been brought to the attention of the Inquiry, it is understood as a result of technical issues. However I

determine that Mr Uppal, having had the opportunity to make such oral submissions, has already exercised his right to renew his application.

9. I will keep the scope of the investigation and the designation of core participants under review and further invitations to apply for core participant status may be made as the investigation proceeds. Therefore, depending on how the investigation progresses, it may also be possible for individuals, such as Billhar Singh Uppal to still assist the Inquiry either as witnesses or as designated core participants in other aspects of the Accountability and Reparations investigation.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE

19 August 2016

Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse