

INQUIRY RULING

APPLICATION FOR INTERESTED PARTY STATUS

MR LEONARD HARPER

Mr Harper has, by virtue of an application dated 16 September 2014 (a copy of which is annexed to this Ruling), asked to be accredited as an Interested Party. The application is made under paragraphs 11 and 13 of the Inquiry Protocol: General Procedures, and falls to be considered under paragraph 12 of the same protocol.

For the reasons set out in the application, specifically on the basis that he may be criticised during the course of the Inquiry, the Inquiry agrees to designate Leonard Harper as an Interested Party to the Inquiry.

Signed:

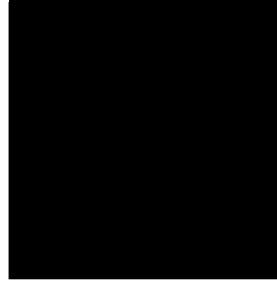


Frances Oldham QC



24 September 2014

Mr Leonard Harper,



Dear Sir/Madam,

APPLICATION FOR INTERESTED PARTY STATUS

I am the former, original Senior Investigating Officer of the Jersey Abuse Investigation known as Operation Rectangle. I have already submitted a statement to your inquiry, and now await finalisation of that statement.

I have recently become aware that the person who succeeded me as SIO, Mr Michael Gradwell, has applied for, and been granted, Interested Party Status. Having looked at the protocols and the implications for myself and others, including the victims, of that application, I now feel it is necessary that I too apply for and am granted the status of Interested Party.

I base my application on the following points in the Inquiry Protocols which the Inquiry has said it will consider.

Whether the person may have played a direct or significant role in relation to an issue or issues to which the Inquiry may relate.

It is my contention that as the SIO who directed the investigation and who won the confidence of victims to come forward when they had been so badly dealt with previously, and who took the operational decisions during the investigation, I come within that category. I believe that I played a direct and significant role in relation to many of the relevant issues.

Whether the person will assist the inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference.

I would contend that as the SIO with command of the investigation, and as the person who has evidence of attempts by a number of people to hamper the investigation of abuse in a number of ways, I will certainly assist the inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference. In particular I have already made a draft statement which touches on the following terms of reference - 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13.

Whether the person may be the subject of significant criticism during the inquiry.

I have already been the subject of criticism by many within the government of Jersey, sections of its Legal System, and parts of its state controlled media, and I am certain that this will continue. It is my belief that in order to attempt to deflect criticism, these elements will again criticise me by the use of untrue and fabricated criticism. Indeed, I note that Mr Gradwell, who I mention above as having been granted interested person status, has stated that among other aspects, he will provide information or evidence as to whether there was sufficient concern to launch the investigation in 2007. As he is already on public record criticising me in that respect, then I believe that this will continue to be the case. In my statement I make it clear that believe that he at best misled the public and the victims, or at worse, told untruths, in relation to a number of the matters in which he states he can assist the inquiry.

In view of the above, I apply for Interested Party status.

Yours faithfully,

Leonard Harper