



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN

NOTICE TO APPLY FOR CORE PARTICIPANT STATUS

THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 2023

The Right Honourable Sir Charles Haddon-Cave, Chair of the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan ('the Inquiry') is today inviting those with a significant interest in the terms of reference to apply to be designated as core participants to the Inquiry under rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006.

A core participant is a person

- Who played, or who may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates, or
- Who has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Inquiry relates, or
- Who may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the Inquiry proceedings, or in an interim or final report.

A person may volunteer evidence, or be asked to provide evidence, to the Inquiry whether or not they are a core participant. However, in contrast to witnesses, those designated as core participants will (either through their legal representatives and/or personally) be able to:

- Receive electronic disclosure of evidence the Chair considers relevant to their participation, subject to any restrictions made under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 including terms of confidentiality, in advance of this being disclosed at a public hearing.
- Make opening and closing statements within the Inquiry.
- Propose lines of questioning of other witnesses to be called by the Inquiry.
- Apply to ask questions of witnesses directly.

Further information about core participant status is included in our Q&A document which can be found on our website under the Documents page.

Applications for designation as a core participant should be made in writing and addressed to the Chair of the Inquiry, the Right Honourable Sir Charles Haddon-Cave, via the solicitor to the Inquiry Piers Doggart who can be contacted by email: piers.doggart@iia.independent-inquiry.uk within the next 2 weeks and is to be received no later than **16:00 on Thursday 20 April 2023**.

Applications should explain why the applicant believes they should be designated a core participant, explaining how the applicant satisfies one or more of the criteria listed in Rule 5(2) Inquiry Rules 2006 set out in paragraph 2 above. The application should also state:

- (i) whether the applicant has already instructed a named legal representative who they wish to be appointed as their recognised legal representative before the Inquiry under Rule 6 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, and
- (ii) whether it is proposed to apply for funding for that legal representation from the Inquiry.

Once the Inquiry has received and considered core participant applications, the Chair will consider issues of joint legal representation before inviting any applications for funding.

Where two or more core participants seek to be legally represented the Chair will direct in accordance with rule 7(2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 that those core participants shall be represented by a single legal representative if he considers that:

- the interests of the Core Participants in the outcome of the Inquiry are similar;
- the facts that they are likely to rely on during the Inquiry are similar; and
- it is fair and proper for the Core Participants to be jointly represented.

Where the core participants cannot agree about appointing a lawyer within a reasonable time frame, the Chair may appoint an appropriate lawyer who he considers has sufficient knowledge and experience to act for the core participants.

Applications for core participant status made after 20 April 2023 will be considered but will need to include a reasonable explanation as to why they are being made after 20 April 2023.