

Ruling on the application of the CPS to be de-designated as a Core Participant

1. By letter dated 7th April 2020, the Crown Prosecution Service ('CPS') applied to cease its designation as a Core Participant ('CP') in this Inquiry.
2. The CPS had been made a CP because of the prosecution of Hashem Abedi which has now concluded. They assisted the Inquiry by updating me as to the progress of the trial and have been responsible for disclosure of the material used in the trial to the Inquiry.
3. I gave the opportunity to all other CPs to make representations in relation to this application and I have heard from GMP, Slater and Gordon and Hogan Lovells. The time for making representations has now passed.
4. GMP and Slater and Gordon have no objection to the application. Hogan Lovells consider that the application may be premature until the Inquiry can be satisfied that the CPS have completed their disclosure to the Inquiry.
5. In response to Hogan Lovells, the CPS have confirmed that they have completed their disclosure process to the Inquiry. They have undertaken that they will continue to cooperate with the Inquiry if asked to do so and will provide the Inquiry with any additional materials that the Chairman considers relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference (subject to any restrictions imposed by the criminal trial), but they do not see the need to continue as a CP.
6. Following the CPS's confirmation, the Inquiry Legal Team indicated that they did not consider that there was a good reason to object to the de-designation of the CPS.
7. I agree with the submissions of the CPS and, having received their assurance, I discharge them from being a CP. I am grateful for the assistance that they have given me and the assurance that they will continue to assist me as necessary for the duration of the Inquiry.

Sir John Saunders
22 April 2020