



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Private & Confidential

Simon Achonu
Legal Department
Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

By email: [REDACTED]

7 February 2020

Dear Mr Achonu

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings investigation - Application to de-designate Mr Lloyd Evans

Thank you for your letter dated to 4 February 2020. The Chair has considered the information which you have brought to our attention carefully and I write on her instructions.

Mr Evans was granted core participant status on 7 August 2019. The reasons included, but were not limited to, Mr Evans' former role as an elder within the CCJW. In her determination, the chair noted that Mr Evans was:

1. A former member and elder of the Jehovah's Witnesses;
2. A prominent campaigner, advocate, writer, documentary maker and activist who works with and supports former Jehovah's Witnesses, including those who have experienced child sexual abuse within the organisation; and
3. The only full-time ex-Jehovah's Witnesses advocate in the world who has researched, and written, extensively about the organisation and its response to child sexual abuse.

The Inquiry understands your concern about some of the material which has been published on Mr Evans' YouTube channel and I am grateful to you for bringing it to our attention. However, the Inquiry is not in a position to police the activities of core participants outside its proceedings.

At the preliminary hearing on 14 January 2020 both Counsel to the Inquiry and the Chair reminded core participants of the need for all those involved in the Inquiry to ensure that their language remains civil and respectful at all times in its proceedings. The Chair repeated the warning she had given in the Westminster Investigation in February 2018 that "*all core participants should choose their words with care...and of course avoid the unnecessary use of language or statements which are either offensive or inflammatory.*" This will apply equally to the evidence to be given by any submissions or evidence given during the forthcoming

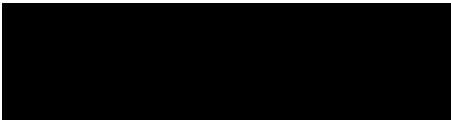


INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

public hearings. I can confirm that Mr Evans has made a statement to the Inquiry, which will be disclosed to core participants shortly and that it complies with this warning.

The Chair is not minded to revoke Mr Evans' core participant status and considers in her discretion that he continues to fulfil the criteria in Rule 5 (2)(a) and (b) as having a significant interest in the matters the Inquiry is considering; and can play a significant role in the issues under investigation.

Yours sincerely



Martin Smith
Solicitor to the Inquiry