



5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

## **Affiliation Letter**

The Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance exists to help co-ordinate, publicise and support the quest for justice for people affected by political undercover police spying and to ensure such abuses do not continue. A Public Inquiry into undercover policing has begun and over 200 individuals and organisations that were spied on have been granted core participation status. This includes the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT) and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

Swathes of campaigns and individuals have been targeted by Britain's secret police for decades, undermining efforts for social justice that should be welcomed in a democratic society. Everyone has the right to participate in the struggle for social and environmental justice, without fear of persecution, objectification, or interference in their lives. However, citizens have been spied on and psychologically and sexually abused by officers for being part of, or simply knowing people who were part of, such campaigns.

### **We condemn:**

- the spying on families, friends, witnesses and campaigners seeking truth and justice over the deaths of loved ones, such as the Lawrence family and the associated institutional racism
- the gross intrusion of undercover officers forming intimate and sexual relationships whilst in their undercover persona and the associated institutional sexism
- the use of the identities of dead children by undercover officers
- police aiding the illegal blacklisting of trade union members and political activists, and passing information on individuals to private investigators and corporations
- the large number of wrongful convictions brought about by misconduct of police and prosecutors
- the use of 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' as a tactic to avoid accountability
- the creations of police files on solicitors representing protestors

We have no confidence that these practices have stopped.

We have no faith in any of the ongoing police inquiries or reports, including Operation Herne, nor those from the satellite bodies such as the Independent Police Complaints Commission or Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Several have already been thoroughly discredited.

A public inquiry has begun; it must be transparent, robust and independent. COPs has attempted to influence the Terms of Reference stating that it should look at all aspects of political policing. The scope of the Inquiry is broader than we initially anticipated. The Terms of Reference state that the Inquiry "will need to examine any evidence of the targeting of individuals for their political views or participation in social justice campaigns".

At the moment the Inquiry is only looking at undercover policing in England and Wales. COPS is campaigning for the Inquiry to investigate the activity of undercover police working abroad. There is firm evidence that British undercover officers spied on activists in other countries. German MP Andrej Hunko has written to the Home Secretary insisting that the Inquiry includes UK officers' actions abroad.

**We call for:**

An end to spying on social justice and environmental campaigns and on families, friends, witnesses and campaigners seeking truth and justice over the death of loved ones

The outlawing of intimate and sexual relationships by police officers whilst in their undercover persona

An end to the use of 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' to cover up these abuses

Support and encouragement for police whistleblowers

Protective measures to prevent serving and retired intelligence gathering officers passing information to private sector corporations and investigators

A thorough, transparent independent inquiry. It should supersede the self-investigations such as Operation Herne which should be scrapped immediately

The abolition of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal and its secret trials without right of appeal

Openness and transparency about the past; with those spied on by the political policing units informed and given access to their files; and information provided to the families of deceased children whose identities were used by undercover officers

A public apology from the police to all those affected.

**AFFILIATION**

We are seeking affiliations from trade unions, individuals and social justice organisations. The affiliation fee is £50 for a branch/trades Council, £200 for a national union. To build support for our demands and involve as many people as possible in campaigning activity on this issue invite a speaker to a meeting and register to be on our mailing list on the COPS website.

**Send affiliation forms and fees to:**

Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance (COPS),  
5 Caledonian Road  
London,  
N1 9DX

Alternatively, you can connect with COPS through:

Facebook/campaignopposingpolicesurveillance or on Twitter @copscampaign.

Name of organisation .....

Contact details .....

.....

Enclose an affiliation fee of .....

I would like a speaker for a meeting on .....