



5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

### **Affiliation Letter**

The Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance 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.

Swathes of campaigns and individuals have been targeted by Britain's secret police for decades. 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 associated institutional racism
- The gross intrusion of undercover officers forming intimate and sexual relationships whilst in their undercover persona and 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 creation of police files on solicitors representing protestors

More than 1,000 political groups have been spied on since the Special Demonstration Squad was formed in 1968. All of them have a right to know what was done.

The public inquiry into undercover policing is underway. There have been some preliminary hearings to decide on how the Inquiry will run and the actual hearings are expected to begin in 2018 or 2019. A new judge has been appointed to chair the Inquiry, Sir John Mitting, who replaces Lord Pitchford. COPS disagrees with some of decisions taken so far by Mitting and his team, such as awarding anonymity to undercover police officers.

We are campaigning to ensure that the Inquiry is open and transparent and serves the interests of the victims of police wrongdoing. We are lobbying and campaigning to challenge decisions not in the interests of getting truth and justice. Almost 200 individuals and organisations that were spied on have been granted core participation status. This includes the National Union of

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Mineworkers (NUM), Unite the Union and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), so this is clearly a trade union issue.

**We call for:**

- An end to spying on social justice, environmental, industrial and family campaigns
- The outlawing of intimate and sexual relationships by police officers whilst undercover
- The release of the cover names of the officers involved
- Protective measures to prevent serving and retired intelligence gathering officers passing information to private sector corporations and investigators
- Support and encouragement for police whistleblowers
- A public apology from the police to all those affected

**What we expect from the Inquiry:**

- A thorough, transparent independent inquiry
- The Inquiry legal team to seize the files and disclose them to the subjects and their lawyers
- Extend the Inquiry to cover activities beyond England
- 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

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**AFFILIATION**

We are seeking affiliations from trade unions, individuals and social justice organisations. If you would like to help build support for campaigning on this issue, we can provide a speaker for your meeting. We also have regular campaign activities which we advertise on our website and have a quarterly Trade Union bulletin. We look forward to working with you.

The annual affiliation fee is £50 for a branch/trades council, £200 for a national union.

Cheques payable to: **Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance**

Bank transfer: Unity Trust Bank, 60-83-01, 20343239. Don't forget to send us this form as well!

Post to: Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

Name of organisation .....

Your name.....

Address .....

Email.....

Mobile Number .....

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