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## OPEN LETTER TO SIR JOHN MITTING, CHAIR OF THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

# UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

Our client, Mr Dave Smith, of the Blacklist Support Group, has shared the following statement in respect of his participation in the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

*We the undersigned, publicly call upon Sir John Mitting, the Chair of the undercover policing public inquiry, to call Dave Smith to appear as a witness at a future set of oral evidence hearings. Smith is a core participant in the inquiry, spied on by multiple undercover officers. The spycops compiled intelligence reports on his trade union and anti-racist activities that were then circulated to the security services.*

*As the secretary of the Blacklist Support Group and co-author of the book, 'Blacklisted: the secret war between big business and union activists', Smith is acknowledged as the leading expert on the Consulting Association blacklisting scandal, and the police involvement in it. Smith has assisted two select committee investigations and his research has been cited in Parliament, in academia, the media and even by the police.*

*Following a formal complaint by the Blacklist Support Group, Operation Reuben was set up as an internal police investigation into police collusion in blacklisting. Operation Reuben concluded that:*

*“Police, including Special Branches and the Security Services supplied information to the blacklist funded by the country’s major construction firms, The Consulting Association and other agencies. This allegation is Proven.*

*Special Branches throughout the UK had direct contact with the Economic League, public authorities, private industry and trade unions”*  
**(Operation Reuben Para. 4.2 & 13.1.2)**

*It is in this context that investigating the downstream use of police intelligence for vetting or blacklisting members of the public became one of the stated aims of this inquiry. Yet the subject is barely mentioned in opening statements by state actors and only cursory questioning of police witnesses has taken place. There was not a single word on blacklisting or vetting in the Chair's Interim Report published in 2023.*

*Without calling on Dave Smith’s in-depth research into the mechanics of blacklisting, the lack of openness by state actors on the issue will go virtually uncontested, and any findings will be based on the failing memories of a small cohort of ex-police officers. The ruling by the chair of the public inquiry to deny Smith the opportunity to give oral evidence is perverse and against the public interest.*

### **Signed by:**

Sharon Graham - Gen. Sec. UNITE the Union (core participant)

Steve Wright - Gen. Sec. Fire Brigades Union (core participant)

Paul Nowak - Gen. Sec. Trade Union Congress

Steve Gillan - Gen Sec. Prison Officers Association, current President Trade Union Congress

Matt Wrack - Gen. Sec. NASUWT, former GS FBU, former President TUC (reported on by undercover police)

Gary Smith - Gen. Sec. GMB union

Sir Paul Kenny - former Gen. Sec. GMB union, former President of TUC

Daniel Kebede - Gen. Sec. National Education Union

Jo Grady - Gen Sec. University & College Union

Paul Mackney - former Gen. Sec. NATFHE (reported on by undercover police)

Fran Heathcote - Gen. Sec. Public & Commercial Services Union

Sarah Wooley - Gen Sec. Bakers, Food & Allied Workers Union & President  
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Mick Whelan - former Gen.Sec. ASLEF  
Eddie Dempsey - Gen. Sec RMT union  
Gawain Little - Gen Sec. General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)  
Darren O'Grady - Ass. Gen. Sec. National Education Union & blacklisted electrician  
Steve Hedley - former AGS RMT union (blacklisted core participant)  
Dr Emma Runswick - Deputy Chair British Medical Association  
John McDonnell MP  
Dave Nellist - former Labour MP (core participant)  
Baroness Jenny Jones - reported on by undercover police  
Frank Smith - blacklisted bricklayer core participant  
Dan Gilman - blacklisted core participant  
Lisa Teuscher - blacklisted core participant  
Steve Acheson - blacklisted electrician core participant  
Noelle & Monica Higgins - daughters of Brian Higgins (blacklisted core participant)  
Marilyn Jones - widow of John Jones (blacklisted core participant)  
Helen Steel - blacklisted core participant  
Dave Morris - blacklisted core participant  
Emily Apple - blacklisted core participant  
Suresh Grover - core participant  
Joe Batty - former TGWU rep  
Lois Austin - core participant  
Mark Metcalf - core participant  
'Alison' - core participant  
'Jenny' - core participant  
'Jessica' - core participant  
'Lindsey' - core participant  
'Wendy' - core participant  
'Madeleine' - core participant  
'Lindsey' - core participant  
Kate Wilson - core participant  
Donna McLean - core participant  
Hannah Sell - core participant  
Lindsey German - core participant  
Eleanor Fairbraida - core participant  
Zoe Young - core participant  
Alex Hodson - core participant  
Dr Donal O'Driscoll - core participant & Undercover Research Group  
Merrick Cork - core participant  
Tom Fowler - core participant  
Chris Brian - core participant

Michael Dooley - blacklisted bricklayer  
Frank Morris - blacklisted electrician  
Colin Trousdale - blacklisted electrician  
Kenny Irvine - blacklisted builder & Building Worker Group  
Kenny Newton - blacklisted electrician  
Dr Jack Fawbert - blacklisted bricklayer  
George Fuller - blacklisted bricklayer  
Terry Brough - blacklisted bricklayer  
Tony Sweeney - blacklisted joiner  
Dr Graham Sharp - blacklisted carpenter  
Bill Kaye - blacklisted construction worker  
John Bryan - blacklisted bricklayer  
Mark Thomas - blacklisted activist comedian  
Paul Crimmins - blacklisted bricklayer  
Tony Seaman - blacklisted scaffolder  
Lee Fowler - blacklisted electrician  
David Dix - blacklisted electrician  
Tony Sweeney - blacklisted scaffolder  
Pat McEwan - blacklisted steel erector  
Stephen Bland - blacklisted electrician  
Martin Smith - blacklisted civil servant & Organising for a Change  
Professor Keith Ewing - President of Institute of Employment Rights  
Hilda Palmer - Families Against Corporate Killers  
Janet Newsome - Hazards Campaign  
Rory O'Neill - Hazards  
Mick Holder - London Hazards Centre (targeted by undercover police)  
Sheila Coleman - Hillsborough Justice Campaign  
John Dunn - Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign & blacklisted coal miner  
Rob Williams - National Shop Stewards Network & blacklisted car worker  
Henry Fowler - Strike Map  
Eveline Lubber - Undercover Research Group  
Hannah Griffiths - The Human Rights Fund  
Organisations  
Blacklist Support Group - core participant  
UNITE the Union - core participant  
Fire Brigades Union - core participant  
Trades Union Congress  
General Federation of Trade Unions  
Police Spies Out of Lives  
Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance  
The Monitoring Group  
Undercover Research Group

Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign  
 National Shop Stewards Network  
 Institute of Employment Rights  
 Hazards Campaign  
 London Hazards Centre

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