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## RESTRICTION ORDER

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This Restriction Order is made pursuant to section 19(1)(b) and (2)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 ("the Act"), read with section 19(3) of the Act.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### Part 1: Documents disclosed to Core Participants or published on the Inquiry's website

1. The Inquiry's OPEN substantive hearings took place between 14 October and 2 December 2024.
2. During the course of the hearings, documents which appeared on the Inquiry's screens in the hearing room and/or were adduced in evidence were published on the Inquiry's website. Following the conclusion of the hearings, additional documents were published on the Inquiry's website where I gave permission for public disclosure.
3. All documents published by the Inquiry have been carefully reviewed and, where necessary, have been redacted in accordance with the Inquiry's [Redaction Protocol](#). Redactions have been applied primarily to content which is:
  - a. personal data within the meaning of UK data protection legislation, further disclosure of which is prohibited by that legislation;
  - b. considered to be both irrelevant to the Inquiry's [Terms of Reference](#) and sensitive; or
  - c. subject to Restriction Orders which I have granted following applications made.

#### Part 2: Restriction Orders granted following applications made

4. I received a number of applications for Restriction Orders from His Majesty's Government (HMG) and Operation Verbasco during the course of the Inquiry, in accordance with the Inquiry's [Protocol on Applications for Restriction Orders](#).
5. On 31 May 2022, I received applications for HMG and Counter Terrorism Policing staff names to be redacted from documents. I heard oral submissions on the applications

at an OPEN preliminary hearing on 15 July 2022 and at a CLOSED hearing which followed. On 19 August 2022, I issued a [Ruling](#) on this issue. I issued a supplemental [Ruling](#) on the redaction of HMG names on 12 February 2024. My Rulings have been published on the Inquiry's website. However, my decisions in relation to individual names are recorded on schedules which must remain CLOSED.

6. On 14 July 2023, I received applications for information to be redacted from documents contained within sample bundles provided by HMG and Operation Verbasco. I heard oral submissions on those applications at an OPEN preliminary hearing on 6 September 2023 and then at CLOSED hearings. I issued a [Ruling](#) on these applications on 3 November 2023. Again, my decisions in relation to each proposed redaction or each document are recorded on schedules which must remain CLOSED.
7. HMG and Operation Verbasco continued to make applications for Restriction Orders on a rolling basis, with the final application being received on 29 May 2025. I have considered the applications on a document-by-document, redaction-by-redaction basis, only granting a Restriction Order where I am satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest pursuant to section 19(3) and (4) of the Act. My decisions in respect of each requested redaction are recorded, primarily on schedules, and these must remain CLOSED.

### Part 3: CLOSED material

8. The Inquiry held CLOSED substantive hearings after the OPEN hearings had concluded.
9. The following materials will form the CLOSED appendices to the Inquiry report:
  - a. CLOSED hearing transcripts;
  - b. CLOSED hearing bundles;
  - c. CLOSED written closing statements; and
  - d. CLOSED supplemental witness statements.
10. I have previously granted Restriction Orders following applications made regarding the CLOSED witness statements and documents included in the CLOSED hearing bundles as well as the CLOSED supplemental witness statements. I am satisfied that a Restriction Order is necessary in the public interest and pursuant to section 19(3) and (4) of the Act in respect of the CLOSED hearing transcripts and CLOSED written closing statements.

### **IT IS ORDERED THAT**

11. This Restriction Order binds all persons.
12. There shall be no publication of any content redacted from materials:
  - a. disclosed to Core Participants by the Inquiry; or
  - b. published on the Inquiry's website.

13. There shall be no disclosure or publication of:
  - a. the names which are the subject of Restriction Order applications that I have granted, referred to in paragraph 5 above;
  - b. the documents, or the information contained therein, which are the subject of Restriction Order applications that I have granted, referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 above; or
  - c. the CLOSED materials which will form the CLOSED appendices to the Inquiry report, referred to in paragraph 9 above.
14. Paragraphs 12 and 13 above shall not apply in respect of any information already made public by the Inquiry during the course of the OPEN Inquiry hearings or published on the Inquiry's website.
15. For the avoidance of doubt, publication includes publishing information on any website, blog, or on or via social media.
16. This Restriction Order imposes no restriction on the disclosure of any material:
  - a. between members of the Inquiry Legal Team for purposes connected with the Inquiry;
  - b. to the Minister or HMG advisers; or
  - c. to current HMG staff or any law enforcement agency or state body to whom disclosure of the document or information is required for purposes connected with the Inquiry or required during the course of their employment and in order to fulfil the terms of their employment.
17. For the purposes of this Restriction Order, references to:
  - a. 'the Inquiry' are references to the Dawn Sturgess Inquiry;
  - b. 'the Chair' are references to the person appointed by the Minister to Chair the Inquiry under section 4 of the Act;
  - c. 'the Minister' are references to the Secretary of State for the Home Department or to such other Government officials acting on behalf of the Minister;
  - d. 'Inquiry Legal Team' are references to the legal team appointed by the Chair and notified to the Minister;
  - e. 'HMG advisers' are references to counsel and solicitors instructed on behalf of HMG, and such other Government officials acting to support the Minister to carry out their statutory duties; and
  - f. 'staff' refers to all current and former staff, including employees, office holders, external contractors and experts.
18. This Order remains in force for the duration of the Inquiry and at all times thereafter, unless varied in accordance with the provisions of section 20(3) or (4) of the Act.

19. Any person affected by this Order may apply in accordance with section 20 of the Act to vary its terms.

20. Any threat to break such an order, or any breach of it, may be certified to the High Court or Court of Session under section 36 of the Act.

**PENAL NOTICE**

The High Court and the Court of Session have the power to imprison or fine for any breach of this Order.

**The Rt Hon Lord Hughes of Ombersley  
Chair, Dawn Sturgess Inquiry  
30 October 2025**