



DIRECTIONS

Following the OPEN preliminary hearing on 24 March 2023, it is DIRECTED that:

1. Those Core Participants who wish to do so may file further written submissions on the law governing the use of Op Verbasco international material by **6 April 2023**.
2. On completion by the Inquiry Legal Team (ILT) of its relevance review of the Op Verbasco disclosure, Op Verbasco is to prepare for ILT and for His Majesty's Government (HMG) one hard copy set each of all Op Verbasco documents that have been identified as relevant.
3. HMG and Op Verbasco are to make first round Restriction Order (RO) applications by reference to marked up copies of bundles of sample documents, the selection of which is to be agreed as directed below. The said applications must be made pursuant to the guidance in the Inquiry RO Protocol. These directions are made on the assumption that, after argument on the matter, it may well be necessary for the entirety of the sample documents to remain in CLOSED whilst the applications are considered. However, the applications must contain submissions justifying that approach in relation to the particular documents in the sample bundles. Further directions as follows:
 - a. By **21 April 2023**, HMG and Op Verbasco are each to propose documents for inclusion in their respective sample bundles, which must at least include documents from Op Verbasco Batch 1 and underlying documents from the draft Police Report.

- b. Thereafter, ILT are to meet HMG and Op Verbasco to discuss the selection of documents in each of the sample bundles.
 - c. The sample bundles are to be agreed by **5 May 2023**, although documents may thereafter be added to or removed from the bundles on the agreement of ILT.
 - d. HMG and Op Verbasco are to file RO applications by **14 July 2023**.
 - e. A directions hearing, if necessary, is to be listed in w/c **24 July 2023**.
 - f. An OPEN hearing to consider the first-round RO applications is fixed for **6 September 2023**, with a CLOSED hearing to follow.
4. A further OPEN hearing is fixed for **w/c 18 September 2023** to give further directions including on the following matters:
- a. The further conduct of the RO process for the balance of Stage 2 disclosure.
 - b. Whether HMG should provide rolling disclosure of documents in respect of which ROs have been made, having particular regard to the progressive passage of time from the completion of the ILT's relevance review and consequently better ability to manage the risk of accidental inappropriate 'mosaic' disclosure of confidential material.
 - c. Completion of the Police Report.
 - d. Dates of any necessary further hearings to consider RO applications.
5. The final OPEN Restriction Order hearing is fixed for **15 March 2024**.
6. HMG and Op Verbasco to complete the provision to ILT of final redacted documents for onward disclosure to Core Participants by **19 April 2024**.
7. The OPEN substantive hearings will commence in Salisbury on **14 October 2024**.

3 April 2023

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD HUGHES OF OMBERSLEY