



## INQUEST TOUCHING THE DEATH OF DAWN STURGESS

**c/o Fieldfisher  
Riverbank House  
2 Swan Lane  
London EC4R 3TT**

Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

22 September 2021

Dear Secretary of State

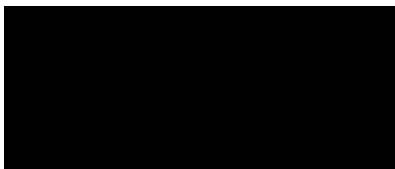
### **Inquest into the Death of Dawn Sturgess**

At the pre-inquest hearing on 22 September 2021, I decided that I must formally request you to take steps to establish a 2005 Act public inquiry to perform the functions of the inquest. This is my written confirmation of that ruling.

I set out my reasons for making what was then a request for your preliminary views in my letter dated 29 July 2021. I indicated at that stage that I intended to ask for further submissions on the issue from the family of Ms Sturgess, from her partner Mr Rowley, and the other interested persons. The bereaved family and Mr Rowley agree that it is essential for an inquiry to be established, as a matter of urgency, to enable me to conduct a full fair, effective and timely investigation. I received no submissions to the contrary. On the basis of those submissions and for the reasons set out in my earlier letter, I am entirely satisfied that an inquiry is necessary properly to investigate the circumstances of Ms Sturgess' death.

As I am sure you and your colleagues will understand, we are anxious to avoid any unnecessary delay and increased anguish for the bereaved family. Ms Sturgess died in 2018 and the disclosure process is so sensitive and complex that the earliest we can begin hearings will be the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023. Accordingly, although I understand the demands on your time, I urge you to respond to this request urgently and no later than 17 November 2021. A decision by that date will enable the interested persons to prepare properly for the next preliminary hearing in December 2021.

Yours sincerely



**The Rt Honourable the Baroness Heather Hallett DBE**