



INQUEST TOUCHING THE DEATH OF DAWN STURGESS

DIRECTIONS – 30 MARCH 2021

Interested Persons

1. The following are designated as Interested Persons (“IPs”), within the meaning of section 47(2) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (“CJA”):
 - a. Members of the family of the deceased, that is, Stephen Stanley Sturgess (Ms Sturgess’ father), Caroline Sturgess (Ms Sturgess’ mother), Aidan Hope and Ewan Hope (Ms Sturgess’ sons) and GS (Ms Sturgess’ daughter), who are all within the scope of section 47(2)(a), are designated IPs.
 - b. Charlie Rowley, Ms Sturgess’ partner, is designated pursuant to sections 47(2)(a) and 47(2)(f).
 - c. The Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(i).
 - d. The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(m).
 - e. The Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(m).
 - f. The Secretary of State for the Home Department is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(m) both on her own behalf, and also in a representative capacity for the following branches of Government: the Cabinet Office; the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of Health and Social Care (which includes Public Health England Porton Down as an executive agency); the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; the Ministry of Defence (which includes the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory); the security and intelligence agencies, namely the Secret Intelligence Service, the Security Service and the Government Communications Headquarters.
 - g. The South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(m).
 - h. The Wiltshire Council is designated pursuant to section 47(2)(m).
2. Interested Person status is withdrawn from Mr Alexandr Petrov and Mr Ruslan Boshirov, with liberty to apply.
3. The daughter of Ms Sturgess will be referred to for the inquest proceedings as GS, as she is a child whose name is unlikely to be relevant to the proceedings. If her name does become relevant, the position will be reviewed and a formal application for anonymity considered if necessary.

Scope

4. The provisional scope of the inquest is as follows:
 - a. The death of Dawn Sturgess
 - i. Dawn Sturgess – pen portrait evidence
 - ii. Events June 2018 to 8 July 2018
 - iii. Medical cause of death
 - iv. Sufficiency of medical treatment
 - b. The poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal
 - i. The events
 - ii. Responsibility for the poisoning
 - (a) Involvement of Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov
 - (b) The source of the Novichok
 - (c) Russian State responsibility
 - iii. Whether the UK authorities took appropriate precautions in early 2018 to protect Mr Skripal from being attacked
 - c. Steps taken by UK authorities to ensure public safety following the Skripal poisoning, focusing on the search for any remaining poison – to include relevant aspects of police investigation / public health response
 - d. Connection between the Skripal poisoning and the death of Dawn Sturgess

Disclosure

5. The Solicitor to the Inquest will arrange for each IP's legal representatives to provide appropriate confidentiality undertakings.
6. Disclosure of documents will be provided to IPs whose representatives have given such undertakings. Disclosure will be arranged in tranches and will be provided by means of an electronic document management system.
7. The Secretary of State for the Home Department is to make accessible to the Inquest Legal Team for review a set of overarching reports, within 3 weeks (by 20th April 2021), with liberty to apply if further time is required.

Venue and Timetable

8. The Solicitor to the Inquest will make enquiries as to whether there are any suitable venues in Salisbury for hearings.
9. Further Pre Inquest Hearings will be listed in June or July 2021 and in September 2021.

30 March 2021

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE BARONESS HALLETT DBE