

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DAWN STURGESS

SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

1. These submissions are filed on behalf of South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust ('SWASFT') in respect of the agenda that has been set for the preliminary hearing on 15 July 2022.

Disclosure Process

2. SWASFT have provided all information for Stage 1 of the disclosure process to the ILT as previously directed. There is nothing outstanding from SWASFT at this time, so far as it is aware.

Restriction Order Applications

3. SWASFT are neutral on the need for any restrictions, including those submissions that have been made in respect of Her Majesty's Government or Operation Verbasco.

Any Other Business

4. There are no other matters that SWASFT wish to raise at the preliminary hearing.
5. As a public body, SWAST has to be mindful of avoiding spending unnecessary costs and resources where appropriate. In light of SWASFT's peripheral role at the preliminary hearing on 15 July, it requests permission to be excused from attendance.
6. Such a decision would not prejudice the Chair's ability to manage the necessary issues for this hearing, nor would it prejudice the other Core Participants.
7. The Chair's discretion for such a decision falls under s.17(1) Inquiries Act 2005. S.17(3) says that "*In making any decision as to the procedure or conduct of an inquiry, the chairman must act with fairness and with regard also to the need to avoid any unnecessary cost (whether to public funds or to witnesses or others).*"
8. In the alternative, SWASFT request permission for its Counsel to attend the hearing remotely.

Bevan Brittan LLP

On behalf of South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

30 June 2022