



# Government Legal Department

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By email only

Your ref: **MLS/LLC/UK01-2011022-0000/93319023**

Our ref: **Z1818825/█/DS5**

8 September 2022

Dear Mr Smith,

## Dawn Sturgess Inquiry

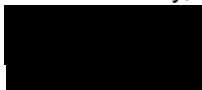
Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Chair's Ruling on 19 August 2022, we write to seek a Restriction Order in respect of the names, identifying details and designations (if appropriate) of all HMG staff and advisers to HMG who have held at any time and/or who currently hold security clearance that allowed or allows them access to material classified as Secret or above, unless the individuals in question have already been officially publicly linked with the events of 2018. This would cover those with DV and SC Clearance as they have routine and unsupervised access to material with at least a Secret classification. It would also cover those with a minimum of BPSS Clearance who had limited and supervised access to relevant Secret material in accordance with Government Security Classifications guidance.

Without the restriction order sought, for the reasons explained in the written application (including the damage assessment) and as ventilated in the two hearings, there will be a serious risk of damage to national security, coupled with personal risk to the persons falling within the proposed order. A restriction order is necessary because hostile actors might target these individuals and/or might use access to their names as a means of disrupting UK public functions. The proposed descriptor identifies HMG staff and advisers to HMG who attract one or both of the twin risks identified. As the Chair observed at paragraph 14 of the Ruling, 'General disclosure of the names of persons subject to these risks would indeed present a hostile actor with a convenient directory of suitable targets and/or a list of sensitive functions which would be of considerable value to a hostile actor accumulating intelligence about UK security and government systems'.

The wording that we propose is intended not to catch those who 'fulfilled entirely innocuous and mundane functions' (paragraph 15 of the Ruling) or those for whom there is no reason to anticipate or fear hostile actor interest in their person or functions.

We will keep under review the question of whether there are further categories of HMG staff who would attract one or both of the twin risks identified.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Robinson - Head of Division

Lorna Robertson - Deputy Director, Team Leader National Security & Counter Terrorism



For the Treasury Solicitor

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