



Government Legal Department

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Your ref: MWS/009822-0003
Our ref: Z1818825/■■■■/DS5

26 October 2022

Dear Sirs,

Restriction Notice dated 27 July 2022 in the matter of the Dawn Sturgess Inquiry

We write in response to your letter of 24 October 2022.

Our clients do not object to your request for an extension of time to 6 December 2022 to issue a claim for judicial review regarding the Restriction Notice signed on 27 July 2022 so that the parties can complete pre-action correspondence, and are happy for you to include confirmation of this in your application to the court regarding the extension.

Although we are necessarily restricted in the detail we can provide, we hope that this letter will provide the reassurance your clients seek so that no judicial review will be considered necessary.

Whilst we understand your clients' concerns, we wish to reassure you that the need for a Restriction Notice and the exact terms of that Notice were carefully considered by the Minister and HMG. The answer to both your questions of clarification is therefore no: the Notice does not impede or prevent the Chair's ability to investigate the matters contained within the Schedule Material or hear evidence regarding it, nor does it affect his ability to include the Schedule Material in his report should he require. The handling restrictions simply control how the Schedule Material and any CLOSED report (or section of a CLOSED report) which refer to the Schedule Material should be handled in CLOSED and limits the readership of the material (and therefore excludes disclosure of it to those who do not already know the information contained in the Schedule Material).

We should make clear, for the avoidance of any doubt, that the Secretary of State does not agree that any part of the Notice is *ultra vires* the 2005 Act.

We hope that this assists your clients in considering the Notice. We are happy to consider any further queries you may have and will try our best to answer any further point of clarification if it is possible for us to do in OPEN.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Robinson - Head of Division

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



[REDACTED]

For the Treasury Solicitor

D [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

Cc: the Chair, through the Solicitor to the Inquiry