



Home Office

Home Secretary

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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

09 March 2022

Dear Lord Hughes

Thank you for confirming your willingness to be appointed as Chair to the Public Inquiry into the death of Dawn Sturgess and accepting the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. I know you have been in contact with my officials. The Inquiry will commence seven days following the formal announcement of your role.

You have indicated your willingness to retain the Inquest Legal Team and asked if there is an appropriate budget in place for the Inquiry. I can confirm that my officials have put in place a legal services framework enabling the legal services contract that is currently in use by the Inquest Legal Team to continue. Once you commence in the role, you will have a meeting with the Inquiry Senior Sponsor and details of the Inquiry budget will be provided. I have also noted your confirmation that there will not be a conflict with your role as an IPCO Commissioner.

I remain committed to ensuring that that HMG's disclosure is prompt and timely and am confident that you will understand and consider the unique national security circumstances of this investigation. My officials will assist you in this process.

Please take this letter as written confirmation of your appointment to the role of Chair as required under section 4 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

*With our best wishes*



**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**

## **Final Terms of Reference of the Inquiry**

- 1) Subject to paragraph 2 below, the Chair is to conduct an investigation into the death of Dawn Sturgess in order to:
  - a. Ascertain, in accordance with section 5(1) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 who the deceased was; how; when and where she came by her death; and the particulars (if any) required by the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 to be registered concerning the death;
  - b. Identify, so far as consistent with section 2 of the Inquiries Act 2005, where responsibility for the death lies; and
  - c. Make such recommendations as may seem appropriate.
- 2) That investigation is to take into account the investigations which have already been conducted by the Coroner (Baroness Hallett).