1	Friday, 24 March 2023	1	in this inquiry, the inquiry that is into the death of
2	(10.30 am)	2	Dawn Sturgess. The previous open directions hearing
3	Housekeeping	3	took place in November of last year.
4	THE CHAIR: Good morning. Thank you all for coming, whether	4	If I may deal with just a few preliminary and
5	in person or remotely. I hope the remote arrangements	5	practical matters before turning to the agenda.
6	are as convenient as they sensibly can be.	6	First, sir, as you've noted, this is a hybrid
7	This, as the parties know, is a further preliminary	7	hearing. All the advocates are here in court but there
8	hearing in a planned series. The objective of the	8	are observers, including members of the family and other
9	series is to manage the assembly of the evidence which	9	core participants, who are following on the link. In
10	will be considered in this inquiry and especially it is	10	fact there are two links, one live-link and one with
11	to manage the separation of that evidence into the part	11	a delay and I will come back to that in a moment.
12	which can be heard in public and the part which can't,	12	At this stage may I simply emphasise that if anyone
13	because the exposure of it would put people and national	13	who is following remotely has any difficulty with the
14	security at risk.	14	technology please alert us as soon as possible, the best
15	The very reason why these proceedings take the form	15	way to do that is by emailing or another member of
16	of an inquiry under the Inquiries Act rather than the	16	the inquiry legal team.
17	more conventional inquest is that an inquest would be	17	Sir, second, and in fact returning to the point
18	disbarred from considering the confidential material at	18	about the different links, since the last hearing you've
19	all. An inquiry can consider it in closed sessions, but	19	adopted a protocol on measures to protect or prevent the
20	it falls to be reviewed and assessed and to contribute	20	disclosure of sensitive information at preliminary
21	to conclusions.	21	hearings of the inquiry. I don't ask you to turn it up,
22	So today and at subsequent similar preliminary	22	but for the record it's at tab 19 of the bundle. It was
23	hearings, there will be more, we are about the business	23	circulated to core participants prior to you adopting
24	of organising how the confidential evidence is to be	24	the protocol and there was no dissent from its
25	separated from the open evidence and then the business	25	provisions. It will, I am sure, be published on the
	Page 1		Page 3
1	of the provision of the open, as much as possible	1	inquiry website in due course.
2	without putting people at risk, to all the parties.	2	In summary, and in fact similar to the informal
3	Working out how to achieve this without putting both	3	measures you adopted at the last hearing, the important
4	people and national security at risk is not, I'm afraid,	4	points arising from the protocol, simply about how the
5	a superficial or a quick process. It takes a good deal	5	hearing is going to be conducted, are these.
6	of care, but it has to be done and it has to be done as	6	First of all, members of the public and the media
7	speedily as it safely can.	7	who are following the hearing remotely will be doing so
8	Right, Mr O'Connor.	8	by means of a link that is delayed by five minutes.
9	Submissions by MR O'CONNOR	9	Core participants and legal representatives on the other
10	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, I appear this morning as counsel to the	10	hand are following by means of a live-link. During the
11	inquiry with my learned friends Ms Whitelaw and	11	hearing, members of the public and media who are present
12	Ms Pottle.	12	in the hearing room may not communicate with anyone
13	The family of Dawn Sturgess and also Charlie Rowley	13	outside the hearing room by phone, email, instant
14	are represented by Mr Mansfield King's Counsel, Mr Straw	14	messaging or any other electronic means. But that's all
15	King's Counsel and Mr Nicholls.	15	I was going to say about the protocol.
16	The Home Secretary and, more broadly, other	16	THE CHAIR: I am sure that's understood. I can see that it
17	Government departments and agencies are represented by	17	is, yes.
18	Ms McGahey King's Counsel.	18	MR O'CONNOR: Moving on, you have received a series of
19	The Metropolitan Police Service are represented this	19	written submissions for this hearing that have been
20	morning by Mr Moss, Ms Shrimpton and Mr Barth.	20	prepared, firstly by us and then by core participants.
21	Thames Valley Police by Mr Beer King's Counsel and	21	They are in your bundle at tabs 4 to 9. There is also
22	Mr Goss.	22	a note, a very short note, that we prepared I think it
23	Lastly, the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police is	23	was last week. I am told it is now in the bundle at
24	represented by Mr Beggs King's Counsel.	24	tab 4A. I will be referring to it in a few minutes
25	This is in fact the fourth open directions hearing	25	time.
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MR O'CONNOR: 19A is where it should be. 1 THE CHAIR: All right. 1 2 MR O'CONNOR: Sir, as with previous hearings it's our 2 THE CHAIR: 19A is where it is. 3 intention to publish all of these written submissions on 3 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you. 4 the inquiry website following the hearing, so that 4 Just finally as regards closed hearings, it's right to say that arrangements have been made that would 5 those, for example, reading the transcript will be able 5 6 to refer to the submissions and, as previously, if any enable you to conduct a further closed hearing following 7 one has any objection to any submissions or part of this hearing if you consider it necessary. Certainly 8 submissions being published, they are invited to raise 8 q that with you when they come to make their oral 9 10 submissions this morning. 10 11 THE CHAIR: Right. 11 12 MR O'CONNOR: There is an agenda that's been prepared for 12 13 this morning's hearing, it's behind tab 1 of your 13 14 bundle. We anticipate that almost all of the oral 14 15 submissions that you will hear this morning will in fact 15 16 be directed towards the third item, which is entitled 16 17 "Path to the substantive hearings". In other words, the 17 18 directions or the completion of the disclosure exercise, 18 19 particular restriction orders and consideration of when 19 20 the substantive hearings may take place. 20 21 And, because the other matters are short, when 21 22 22 I come in a moment to address you, I am proposing to 23 address you on all of agenda items together and then no 23 24 doubt you will invite others to do the same. 24 25 THE CHAIR: Yes, all right. 25 Page 5 1 MR O'CONNOR: The final preliminary matter relates to the 2 2 closed hearing that all core participants are aware took 3 3 place prior to this hearing. Previously, you have 4 4 occasionally held short closed hearings following 5 an open preliminary hearing so that any closed points 5 6 relating to the matters that have been debated in open 6 7 could be raised with you in that forum. 7 8 On this occasion you considered that it would be 8 9 helpful to hold a closed hearing before this open 9 10 hearing and that was to ensure that you understood all 10 11 of the closed points of detail relevant to the important 11 12 case management decisions that are before you today. In 12 13 other words, the purpose of holding the closed hearing 13 14 was to enable today's hearing to be as effective as 14 15 possible. 15

Everyone will understand that much of what was said

prepare an open summary of what took place at the closed

hearing. That was circulated to core participants a day

or so ago and again we propose to publish that also on

the inquiry website in due course, though I believe it's

been added to your bundle at tab 19A. It's a document

THE CHAIR: I know I've seen it, let me check I have it.

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of two and a half pages.

at the closed hearing can't be repeated at this hearing

today. Having said that, it has been possible to

our working assumption has been that a further closed hearing won't be needed, precisely because you had one in advance of this hearing, but of course it's open to others to invite you to hold such a hearing, and in any event it's a matter for you as to whether you think it's appropriate in due course. That then leads me to the first two agenda items, which I propose to take together. That is compliance with the directions that you made after the last hearing and a disclosure update. The directions that you made at the conclusion of the November hearing have been published on the inquiry website. They are in tab 17 of the bundle. I don't ask you to turn them up. In summary those direction concerned various steps that were to be taken by HMG, Operation Verbasco and Wiltshire Police concerning the ongoing disclosure exercise. I am glad to say that those directed were all complied with and much more Page 7 detail on the detail of that can be found in the respective written submissions. I don't go to that now. THE CHAIR: I've seen that. MR O'CONNOR: I am also pleased to say that what we've been describing it as the stage 1 disclosure exercise, in other words the provision of material, by HMG and the police largely, to your team for a relevance review, that process has progressed considerably in recent months since the last hearing. Again, there is considerable detail on that progress to be found in both our written submissions and in the written submissions that have been filed in particular by the police and by the government, but in summary since November of last year at the last hearing, so four months or so, stage 1 disclosure has moved from what 16 might have been described as a standing start to near completion. The removal of the preliminary security 17 18 review unblocked stage 1 disclosure, so that 19 Operation Verbasco has been able to deliver all of its 20 disclosure, barring some limited material concerning 21 international permissions which no doubt Mr Beer will 22 address you on separately. That material has been 23 delivered in eight batches over the four-month period 24 since the last hearing. 41,319 of the 66,000-odd items 25 that Operation Verbasco have scheduled were delivered to

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1	us for review by 2 March and a final batch with the	1	are required prior to the final hearings.
2	remaining items has been delivered in the last few days.	2	As I have mentioned, you have received some detailed
3	So the position there is they have completed	3	written submissions in advance of the hearing, initially
4	THE CHAIR: You now have all of that?	4	we made submissions, you then had submissions from, if
5	MR O'CONNOR: We have, sir, other than that small	5	you like, the institutional core participants, the
6	THE CHAIR: Apart from the international material, yes.	6	Government, Operation Verbasco, Wiltshire Police and so
7	MR O'CONNOR: Our relevance reviews for the first five	7	on. The directions were slightly varied to allow the
8	batches of that material as I said, there have been	8	family to receive those submissions and then make
9	eight batches. So the first five are already complete	9	responsive submissions themselves.
10	and the results of those that is our indication of	10	THE CHAIR: That was helpful.
11	which documents within those batches are relevant and	11	MR O'CONNOR: The written submissions you have from the
12	which are not we have been returning to	12	family were drafted having seen
13	Operation Verbasco on a rolling basis over the last few	13	THE CHAIR: Are responsive.
14	months.	14	MR O'CONNOR: Exactly, they are responsive to those other
15	During the same period we have been provided with	15	submissions.
16	over 5,000 documents by Wiltshire Police. Those have	16	As I have mentioned, we did put in that short note
17	all been reviewed by us and again the results have been	17	last week with the intention of focusing matters
18	returned to Wiltshire Police.	18	a little.
19	Again during the same period HMG have delivered	19	As I have also said, you've had the benefit now of
20	large tranches of materials from various HMG departments	20	hearing closed oral submissions, both from HMG and from
21	for our review. That process is underway. Again we	21	Operation Verbasco, about the proposed directions and as
22	have been providing our decisions on that material on	22	I have said the purpose of that hearing was to enable
23	a rolling basis, in parallel with all that's been going	23	you to hear full open argument on those matters today
24	on with the police material.	24	and then to give directions.
25	On the current volume of material we anticipate	25	Sir, the written submissions raise of course
23	On the eartest votatile of material we anticipate	23	on, the written submissions raise of coarse
	Page 9		Page 11
1	completing our relevance reviews for all core	1	a number of issues, most regarding the conduct of the
2	participant material three months after this hearing,	2	restriction order process. Unlike in the closed
3	that's the same period we gave in our submissions we	3	hearing, all core participants who want to be are
4	filed a few weeks ago. That's roughly by the end of	4	present in the room today and I propose to leave much of
5	June this year.	5	the detail of those points for them to address you on.
6	We've had a few hearings where there have been	6	I will though make a few introductory submissions.
7	difficulties brought before you relating to stage 1	7	First, by way of context and then addressing the various
8	process, but I am glad to say with considerable effort	8	stages that we identify in that further note of last
9	and good will on all parts, and I can certainly say	9	week of the process.
10	a lot of work amongst the members of our team, the	10	If I may just start with a few words about the
11	position is a lot rosier today than it has been at	11	context, sir, because there is no hiding from the fact,
12	previous hearings.	12	indeed we are all acutely aware of the fact that the
13	That then brings us to the third item on the agenda,	13	disclosure process in this inquiry is taking an
14	which is entitled "Path to substantive hearings", which	14	exceptionally long time. It is now nearly two years
15	as I have also said is likely to be the focus of the	15	since the first pre-inquest hearing before Lady Hallett
16	submissions that you hear today.	16	and there is still some way to go.
17	Sir, at the last hearing in November you made it	17	On the timings suggested in the written submissions
18	clear that you intended at this hearing to give detailed	18	we will not be ready for substantive hearings until some
19	directions for the remaining stages of the disclosure	19	time around the middle or even the end of next year.
20	exercise and, if possible, to set a date for the	20	The impact of this delay on Dawn Sturgess's family
21	substantive hearings.	21	is explained in the written submissions that have been
22	As I have just explained, since then good progress	22	served on their behalf and I am sure that Mr Mansfield
23	has been made with the stage 1 disclosure process and	23	will return to that theme in his oral submissions. All
24	for that reason we submit you are well placed today to	24	participants in this inquiry and I know you, sir,
25	address stage 2 disclosure and indeed other steps that	25	understand the family's desire to complete these
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	Page 10		Page 12
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1	proceedings in a timely way.	1	involved that in the broadest of terms the first round
2	It has been said before but it bears saying again:	2	restriction order applications must comprise both
3	this process is taking an exceptionally long time	3	an argument, an application relating to categories of
4	because it involves an exceptionally difficult task,	4	sensitivity for you to consider but also, and
5	including dealing with exceptional sensitivities.	5	critically, marked redactions in accompanying documents,
6	There have, of course, been some disputes about	6	so-called sample documents to demonstrate the
7	precisely how to proceed and there will be more of those	7	application of those sensitivities. The way that it's
8	today. But we can attest to the fact that all involved,	8	put in the HMG submissions at paragraph 4 is so that the
9	HMG, the police teams and your team are working hard and	9	process can lead to a ruling by you on "the nature and
10	dedicating considerable resources to this inquiry.	10	category of acceptable redactions that can then be
11	One way of speeding things up would be to allow	11	applied more generally to documents before stage 2
12	compromises to be made to the thoroughness or to the	12	disclosure".
13	openness of your investigation, but we know that that is	13	We submit that there are those quite important
14	something that neither you nor anyone else involved	14	elements of agreement about the first round
15	would wish.	15	applications.
16	Sir, I am going now to turn to the detail and to the	16	The differences perhaps can be reduced to three
17	stages of the process going forward. For that reason,	17	issues.
18	may I just ask you to glance at our note that we put in	18	First of all, there is a question about the volume
19	last week. It's at tab 4A of your bundle. You will see	19	or the identity of the sample documents that are to be
20	there, sir, that we hope it's helpful just to focus on	20	chosen.
21	four stages, A, B, C and D, that we set out.	21	Secondly, there is an issue about the way in which
22	I am going to start with what I imagine again you	22	the restriction order applications are to be made,
23	are likely to hear most about this morning, which is the	23	specifically whether draft redacted documents will be
24	first of those stages, that is what we've described as	24	shared with core participants, but particularly the
25	first round of restriction order applications.	25	family, at the time the restriction orders are made so
	75		75 - 15
	Page 13		Page 15
1	Sir, it's right to say at the outset that there is	1	that they can see passages that are not intended to be
2	considerable common ground regarding this first round	2	redacted.
3	restriction order applications.	3	THE CHAIR: At the time of the application?
4	First of all, we understand it to be accepted that	4	MR O'CONNOR: At the time of the application, or whether at
5	the concept of having a first round and then a second	5	that stage all of the content of the documents will be
6	round is an appropriate way forward. One of the	6	treated as closed and indeed will be treated as closed
7	purposes of the first round will be to enable	7	until the end of the process.
8	a streamlined approach to be taken to the second round,	8	So that's the second issue.
9	in other words that we hope your ruling at round 1	9	Then the third, which really follows and is very
10	applications would allow a considerable degree of	10	closely related to those first two, is the question of
11	agreement about redactions and so on that are to be	11	timing: when should the application be made and when
12	applied on further documents at the second round of	12	should you determine it?
13	applications.	13	Those are broadly the issues that we identify in our
14	THE CHAIR: That will work providing that the first round is	14	note under issue A. I will address you on those matters
15	representative.	15	briefly, if I may.
16	MR O'CONNOR: Quite so. That's a point which has been made	16	First of all, as far as the sample of documents is
17	in the submissions and to which I will return.	17	concerned, sir, as you put to me a few moments ago, it
18	We also I think all agree that at that first round	18	is critical if the round 1 approach is to achieve its
19	an inappropriate degree of duplication or unnecessary	19	purpose for the application to be supported by a set of
20	work should be avoided. I do though emphasise those	20	marked-up documents demonstrating an approach to
21	initial words "an inappropriate degree", because it may	21	redaction which you can consider and then rule on.
22	be that some degree of either duplication or unnecessary	22	Of course, as I said, it's important to start with
23	work is something that we will just have to accept in	23	a statement of principle identifying areas of
24	order to make the sample process work.	24	sensitivity, but while that statement of principle is
25	I think it's also agreed amongst all of those	25	valuable the difficulty in any restriction order or
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similar process hes not in the judge or in this case the chair of an inquity determining whether a particularly assection about whether a category of material is ensistive or not, thar's not the difficult stage, the difficult stage is how in apply whatever decision is reached to reducting particular documents. So that is why a sample is important is also why be sample needs to be sufficiently large and sufficiently varied to be a valuable tool going forward. In office words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of dictiently large and sufficiently varied to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of dictiently large and sufficiently varied to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of dictiently the best possible to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of green with which is made in the family's submissions at pangraph 8 and we entirely agree with what is said there. We submit if also follows really from what have said that precisely because it is important to get the right sample, although of course in the end it is a asample of decuments which wilk per in forward by HMCl and Operation Verbusco, the task of selecting that documents bound be involved in as well on your behalf to ensure that it is apmyraise, and it documents whether to engage in that process between now and whatever time I set? Page 17 MR O'CONNOR: Sir, entirely, yes. The draftil policy report. And the documents referred to as butch 1 of the operation Verbuscon, the actually at pangraph 22 of or our submissions but 1 door it is supporting and it were the sample in company in that process between now and whatever time I set? The group of the more direct quassion of what documents should be included in the sample. In our withing the submissions that is don't appreciated to be accounted to the sample in that process between now and whatever time I set? The gro				
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sessifive or not, thark not the difficult stage, the difficult stage is how is apply whatever decision is receded to reducting particular documents. So that is receded to reducting particular documents. So that is why a sample is important. It's also with the sample made and the sample	2	the chair of an inquiry determining whether a particular	2	
difficult stage is how to apply whatever decision is reached to reducting particular documents. So that is why a sample is important It's also why the sample needs to be sufficiently large and sufficiently varied to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of documents, a wide variety of different to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about a wide variety of documents, a wide variety of different to types of extractivity horse the best possible assistance for the later process. This is a point which is made in the family's submissions at paragraph 8 and we entirely agree with what is said there. We submit it also follows really from what I have register that a sample of documents which will be put forward by HMG and Operation Verbasco, the task of selecting that a sample of documents which will be put forward by HMG and Operation Verbasco, the task of selecting that includes the right type of material. MR OCONNOR: Sir, entirely, yes. That brings me to the mord direct unit say only not to twe of propose that the sample might include three things. The deciments wherein as you to to twe of operation Verbasco material. MR OCONNOR: Sir, entirely, yes. That brings me to the more direct question of what what is doubt contain, some of the points made are that were the sample might included in the sample. In our written submissions, his actually at paragraph 2.24 of our submissions but I doubt ask you to go to twe of propose that the sample might include three things. The deciments referred to as batch I of the operation Verbasco material. One of the advantages of choosing this material was that all of this material, to one extern or another, has been considered by HMG and Op Verbasco of exactivity. THE CHAIR: Is sat show me where that is, will you? MR OCONNOR: Is sat show the where that is, will you? MR OCONNOR: Is sat show the paragraph I of their THE CHAIR: Is stay show me where that is, will you? MR OCONNOR: Is s	3	assertion about whether a category of material is	3	Sir, really, in summary, the objection is raised
reached to redacting particular documents. So that is why a sample is important. If a also why the sample is needs to be a sufficiently large and sufficiently varied to be a valuable tool going forward. In other words, you need to make rulings about 1 a wide variety of documents, a wide variety of different 1 a wide variety of documents, a wide variety of different 1 types of ensistivity to provide the best possible 12 assistance for the later process. This is a point which 13 assistance for the later process. This is a point which 14 is neade in the family's submissions at paragraph 8 and 14 we entirely agree with what is said there. 15 We submit it also follows really from what I have 16 we entirely agree with what is sold there. 16 We submit it also follows really from what I have 18 right surple, although of course in the end it is 18 as a sample of documents which will be put forward by HMG 19 as ample of documents which will be put forward by HMG 20 and Operation Verbaseo, the task of solecting that 21 sample is one that we should be involved in a well on 22 sample is one that we should be involved in a well on 22 includes the right type of material. 22 includes the right type of material. 23 includes the right type of material. 24 ITHE CHAIR: You are content to engage in that process 25 between now and whatever time I set? 25 between now and whatever time I set? 26 IMR OCONNOR: Sir, entirely, yes. 27 The draft police report. 28 And the documents referred to as hatch I of the verbaseo material is required to the order of the verbaseo material is between now and whatever time I set? 29 The draft police report. 30 And the documents referred to as hatch I of the verbaseo material is been considered by HMG and Op Verbaseo for sensitivity as a result of directions that you've made. 31 The CHAIR: Just show me where that is, it will be 20 the 7 is reported to the order of mother, has 18 been considered by HMG and Op Verbaseo for sensitivity as a result of directions that you've made. 32 THE CHAIR:	4	sensitive or not, that's not the difficult stage, the	4	THE CHAIR: They also of course say earlier don't they, at
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1	which we've been conducting the work. Because we	1	of great value to you and to this inquiry. The purpose
2	make no criticism of this, it has been the most	2	of it is to bring together, if you like, the fruits of
3	efficient way to do it	3	the police investigations into the events in Salisbury.
4	THE CHAIR: Yes.	4	Secondly, it's true to say that work on the report
5	MR O'CONNOR: but because we've been seeing documents in	5	has been underway for some time now and those who are
6	tranches, another way in which it's sometimes described	6	following these proceedings will recall it's been
7	is drip fed, but of course I wouldn't use that term it's	7	mentioned at number of these hearings, but I think it's
8	more usually a term that's used against me rather than	8	important for me to emphasise that there is no criticism
9	by me. But, sir, because it's been done in that way	9	of the fact that it's still in draft at this stage. It
10	those on the inquiry team who have been looking at that	10	has deliberately been left unfinished so that further
11	documents may well regard let's say in the first batch	11	material emerging from the disclosure process can be
12	ten documents as being relevant, and so they mark them	12	added to it, because the intention is that it will in
13	as being relevant. But then a month later they may see	13	the end be one document which covers as much as possible
14	one further document which is relevant but which means	14	of the material.
15	that the first ten are no longer relevant.	15	As to whether it should be included in the sample or
16	THE CHAIR: You don't need the first ten.	16	not, in summary the argument in favour of including it
17	MR O'CONNOR: There has to be a sort of process at the end	17	is that precisely because it will be a core open
18	of the process, which as I indicated we have not reached	18	document where redactions are needed to it, quite likely
19	there yet, of if you like reconciling that work.	19	that similar issues will arise in other documents,
20	Although, sir, you are right to say of course the	20	therefore it will be a useful addition to the sample.
21	starting point is: what we've said is relevant is	21	On the other hand, it's said precisely because it's
22	relevant. We do anticipate that once we have a complete	22	still a draft there is a risk that the text will change,
23	set of everything that we said is relevant we'll be able	23	though arguments about redactions to particular passages
24	to go back to determine that some can be withdrawn.	24	in the current draft may become academic. As I say,
25	THE CHAIR: Some earlier documents may be superseded by	25	those are points which I imagine will be canvassed
	, i		
	Page 21		Page 23
1	later ones in effect?	1	before you.
2	MR O'CONNOR: They may be, sir.	2	Lastly on this, we certainly say that the arguments
3	In any event, as I said we do understand that there	3	against including the police report do not apply to the
4	is some force in what HMG say. That's why what we are	"	
		4	
		4 5	underlying documents. They, in our submission, are core
5	now proposing is that rather than including all of	5	underlying documents. They, in our submission, are core documents and they will remain as part of this process
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1	THE CHAIR: Yes.	1	important substantive question of which of the two
2	MR O'CONNOR: That's one method.	2	approaches
3	A second method is that all of the content of the	3	THE CHAIR: Well, it does. Am I right that I have it in
4	document, that is both the proposed redacted passages	4	front of me now what the protocol actually says is
5	but also the rest, are treated as closed at the time the	5	that any application should include an open session that
6	application is made and ruled on and debated and indeed	6	identifies the restriction order sought and provides as
7	possibly further down the line than that.	7	much detail about the application grounds as is possible
8	We know, I think, that HMG and Op Verbasco propose	8	without defeating the purpose of the application?
9	to adopt the second approach. You heard closed	9	MR O'CONNOR: Exactly, sir. That's one of the opening
10	submissions about this, and I am sure they will be	10	passages and later passages really follow the same
11	making open submissions explaining why they consider	11	theme. So it's broadly drafted and the question is at
12	that to be the appropriate	12	large, as it were, as to how much of the application
13	THE CHAIR: The second approach there.	13	should be made open or can be made open and how much has
14	MR O'CONNOR: The second approach, yes.	14	to remain in closed.
15	There's one point of correction, sir, that I need to	15	As I have said, certainly it's broad enough to
16	make. I wonder for these purposes whether I can ask you	16	accommodate, were you to be satisfied with this, the
17	to look at the open note of the closed hearing, which	17	second approach identified, where even the material
18	should be at tab 19A of the bundle.	18	which isn't
19	THE CHAIR: 19A.	19	THE CHAIR: I were satisfied that there's good reason for
20	MR O'CONNOR: It's paragraph 3(c) of that document. This	20	it, which I shall have to hear the argument.
21	a passage of the note which relates to this point,	21	MR O'CONNOR: I know Ms McGahey I am sure will address you
22	you'll see it says:	22	further on that, sir.
23	"HMG and Op Verbasco propose that their restriction	23	Sir, I am not going to go any further really in the
24	orders applications should not follow the inquiry's	24	territory of the necessity or desirability of adopting
25	restriction order protocol, rather there would be no	25	one or other approach. Clearly there are a number of
	Page 25		Page 27
1	disclosure of any unredacted material accompanying the	1	issues and I am sure others will address you on them.
1 2	disclosure of any unredacted material accompanying the application."	1 2	issues and I am sure others will address you on them. But I do want to flag one very practical consideration
			•
2	application."	2	But I do want to flag one very practical consideration
2 3	application." You will see that in the second sentence there the	2 3	But I do want to flag one very practical consideration which became apparent at the closed hearing, and that is
2 3 4	application." You will see that in the second sentence there the substance of the point is made, that the approach is to	2 3 4	But I do want to flag one very practical consideration which became apparent at the closed hearing, and that is the question of timing.
2 3 4 5	application." You will see that in the second sentence there the substance of the point is made, that the approach is to be the second of the two that I identify.	2 3 4 5	But I do want to flag one very practical consideration which became apparent at the closed hearing, and that is the question of timing. Sir, if the first sorry, the no-documents
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1 I say the arguments for and against. 1 were the applications to be made in May, were the THE CHAIR: If that happens, it can be done sooner. 2 2 hearing to be in July, then we would start the autumn 3 MR O'CONNOR: On that approach, it means because there is no 3 with a ruling from you and we would be that much further 4 risk then of publishing the material or showing it to 4 ahead than if the hearing was only to take place in 5 the family, then it can be done more quickly. But at 5 September. 6 the other end of the process it means that the family Of course you'll need to -- this is very much 6 7 are not going to see even parts of the documents as the 7 a question for HMG and Op Verbasco to address you on, 8 process unfolds 8 because it is they that will be doing the work of 9 THE CHAIR: Until some time later. Q putting the applications together. The question is, 10 MR O'CONNOR: It means when they do finally see them, of 10 bluntly: do they need two months or do they need four? 11 course they will need to have enough time first of all 11 THE CHAIR: Now you mean? Counting from now? 12 assimilate them but then to make consequential MR O'CONNOR: Yes. 12 13 applications, which otherwise they might have been able 13 THE CHAIR: Yes. 14 14 MR O'CONNOR: Sir, that's all I was proposing to say -- just to make earlier. 15 That's one way of looking at the timing. 15 glancing back at our note -- about the first of the 16 The other way of looking at it is that if the other 16 stages. As I have said, there's far more to say about 17 approach were to be adopted, that is the first of the 17 that than the others, I will just catch up if I may to 18 two alternatives, then it's really saying the same thing 18 cover the final stages rather more briefly. 19 the other way round, the family would see the documents 19 First of all, looking at the second stage what we 20 during the process, but as we understand it HMG and 20 have said is stage B, which is the completion of the 21 Op Verbasco's submission will be that there will need to 21 restriction order process. I have already made the 22 be a delay, perhaps a considerable delay, before the 22 point that the intention, and I think this is really 23 process can start so that they can satisfy themselves 23 common ground, is that at that stage we will attempt to 24 that there are no sensitivities in --24 deal with the remaining documents, in other words those 25 THE CHAIR: Inadvertent disclosure. 25 that have not been directly included in the first round Page 29 Page 31 1 MR O'CONNOR: Yes. 1 of restriction order applications, in some form of 2 2 The timing points are important. They have streamlined process, which is very much guided by the 3 3 implications for the later stages of the process and ruling you've given at the first stage. I don't want to 4 4 be too prescriptive about that at this point, I suspect I am sure you will want to hear submissions on those 5 that are as full as possible. 5 that once we've had the first round of restriction order 6 Sir, the last point about the first round of applications, once you've ruled on them, it will be, if 6 7 restriction order applications that I mentioned at the 7 not obvious, I hope more clear than it is now what the 8 outset is the timing point. As I have said, if the 8 best way to proceed is. 9 second approach, what I have described as the 9 THE CHAIR: We live in hope. 10 no-documents approach, is adopted, then in short the 10 MR O'CONNOR: I suspect -- yes -- that taking stock once 11 options before you are an application in July with 11 we've been round the first stage, the right way --12 a hearing in September, that is the approach suggested 12 THE CHAIR: I understand the principle. 13 in the HMG submissions and I think the Verbasco 13 MR O'CONNOR: Having said that, one can't be too vague and 14 submissions as well. Or, and this is a matter we 14 for the sake of planning it will be necessary, we 15 canvassed in the closed hearings, the question is: is it 15 submit, really at least to identify an indicative date 16 possible to accelerate that process and have for the final hearing on the restriction orders. 16 17 applications in May with a hearing in July? 17 THE CHAIR: Yes. 18 Those are the two alternatives that perhaps should 18 MR O'CONNOR: And what is likely to be a later date for the 19 be focused on, that's certainly --19 very completion of stage 2 disclosure, in other words 20 THE CHAIR: May is also canvassed, isn't it, in 20 once all the orders have been made and redactions have 21 Mr Mansfield's submissions? 21 been applied and so on and then for disclosure to be 22 MR O'CONNOR: It is, so that's one of the reasons we 22 made to the family. 23 mentioned in the closed hearing, but the question 23 Sir, you will recall that at the closed hearing, 24 is: can the making of the applications be accelerated? 24 this is something that's covered in the open note, the 25 The advantage to be gained is perhaps obvious, because 25 submission made by Ms McGahey on behalf of HMG was that Page 32 Page 30

1	that process could be completed and redacted documents,	1	make submissions about the material that emerges from
2	she thought, provided to the inquiry by the end of	2	it.
3	April. Of course, once the documents have been provided	3	In fact, all of the core participants in their
4	to the inquiry there would then still be some time	4	written submissions have identified steps that they
5	before they were all uploaded on to Relativity, but we	5	envisage taking during this period on behalf of the
6	would hope that that wouldn't take too long and we would	6	family making applications consequent on their review of
7	hope it would be a rolling process.	7	the documents
8	THE CHAIR: There's no reason why it all has to be done at	8	THE CHAIR: Right.
9	once?	9	MR O'CONNOR: and others, special measures applications,
10	MR O'CONNOR: Well, no. There's some uncertainty about	10	arrangements for security at the hearings and so on.
11	that, but certainly we would hope not to receive	11	It's plainly very difficult to estimate how much
12	absolutely all of the documents at the one time. So to	12	time will be needed to complete all of these different
13	some extent it can be done as a rolling exercise.	13	and various tasks. Doing the best we can and reviewing
14	THE CHAIR: Yes.	14	the submissions that have been made in writing, it would
15	MR O'CONNOR: As we understood that prediction of the end of	15	seem that a period of about six months, which is the
16	April, that was on the basis of a hearing in September,	16	period identified in the family's submissions, should be
17	and of course on a sort of no-documents approach, but	17	allowed.
18	perhaps Ms McGahey will confirm that when she makes her	18	THE CHAIR: That's the figure that's suggested in their
19	oral submissions.	19	submissions, isn't it?
20	Of course it's right of course that we and I am sure	20	MR O'CONNOR: It is, I am not sure if they actually say but
21	you are grateful for that indication, but we have to	21	certainly if you look at the timings
22	recognise that Ms McGahey is doing the best she can but	22	THE CHAIR: That's what it boils down to.
23	there are many contingencies between now and then and so	23	MR O'CONNOR: I will be corrected, but I think that is the
24	it isn't a firm date, it's the best estimate that can be	24	period they had in mind.
25	given at the moment. It perhaps follows from that that	25	On that basis and on the dates that I have mentioned
	• •		
	Page 33		Page 35
1	if it is possible to have an earlier hearing then that	1	conclusion of the stage 2 disclosure process by the end
2	if it is possible to have an earlier hearing then that will simply provide a bit more flexibility in the		conclusion of the stage 2 disclosure process by the end of April, so that would suggest that you may consider
	will simply provide a bit more flexibility in the	1 2 3	of April, so that would suggest that you may consider
2	will simply provide a bit more flexibility in the timetable.	2	of April, so that would suggest that you may consider listing the open substantive hearings in October.
2 3	will simply provide a bit more flexibility in the timetable. The third stage in our note, stage C, is the process	2 3	of April, so that would suggest that you may consider listing the open substantive hearings in October. I should say that we've put ourself to the task of
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1	remaining open evidence would be heard in London, with	1	That's for three main reasons.
2	a video link to a venue in Salisbury.	2	Firstly, it is obviously hoped that this inquiry may
3	Just by way of update, the inquiry's secretariat has	3	lead to lessons being learnt for the future and if
4	been undertaking work to make provisional arrangements	4	that's to happen then the sooner those lessons can be
5	for possible venues for open hearings and all the	5	learned, identified and acted upon the better.
6	associated practical arrangements that need to be made	6	Secondly, it's obviously important that the family
7	and once final hearing dates are set there will be	7	should have as early a resolution as they can.
8	confirmation of venues.	8	Thirdly, any public inquiry requires a huge input on
9	THE CHAIR: Yes.	9	the part of the staff involved. In this inquiry, many
10	MR O'CONNOR: As far as the next preliminary hearing is	10	of the HMG individuals who are involved in disclosure,
11	concerned, that's the last matter on the agenda, really	11	providing witness evidence, are highly qualified
12	that's bound up with the questions relating to the	12	specialists in their field and they have day jobs that
13	restriction order process.	13	involve work that keeps us all safe. They want to do as
14	THE CHAIR: July or September, by the sounds of it.	14	good a job as they possibly can for this inquiry, while
15	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, certainly if we settle on a hearing in	15	also maintaining their day-to-day work and it is
16	July, then my submission it's unlikely we'll need	16	100 per cent in their interests to do whatever work is
17	a hearing before then. If you decide that the hearing	17	needed as efficiently as they can.
18	of the restriction order application should be in	18	All of us on the HMG team understand completely the
19	September, well it may be that another hearing before	19	frustration that the family must feel because they've
20	then would be useful. But, sir, perhaps that's	20	seen very little evidence of progress so far, but the
21	something we can keep under review but certainly the	21	fact that they've not seen that progress absolutely does
22	main point is	22	not mean either that no progress has been made or that
23	THE CHAIR: Yes, I might want to be reassured about what was	23	things are being withheld from them that should not be
24	happening.	24	withheld.
25	MR O'CONNOR: You might be, sir. That's certainly something	25	As counsel to the inquiry has already indicated, the
	Page 37		Page 39
	O		O
1	for consideration.	1	disclosure process is now very far advanced. The
2	THE CHAIR: Yes. All right.	2	Inquiry Legal Team estimates that it will have seen all
3	MR O'CONNOR: As ever, my short introductory submissions	3	the material that it wants to see from all sources
4	seem to have gone on for some time. I wonder whether	4	including HMG and will have identified everything
5	now would be a convenient moment to have a break for the	5	relevant probably by around the end of June of this
6	transcriber before we come back on other submissions.	6	year.
7	THE CHAIR: Yes, if the transcriber needs it.	7	THE CHAIR: Yes.
8	Just before we do that, Mr Mansfield you are very	8	MS MCGAHEY: So that's about 12 weeks' time. That's been
9	welcome to go next if you want, but I suspect you might	9	an absolutely mammoth task, both for those involved in
10	prefer, and I would certainly prefer, to hear from what	10	providing disclosure and for those on the inquiry team
11	I will call the disclosing parties first.	11	who have had to analyse the material that they've been
12	MR MANSFIELD: I would do, sir.	12	sent.
13	THE CHAIR: It will be Ms McGahey and Mr Beer and then	13	Of course we understand why the family are asking
14	Mr Beggs. All right. Half past, please.	14	why things are taking so long and there is a number of
15	(11.26 am)	15	reasons.
16	(A short break)	16	Firstly, although it's before your involvement, sir,
17	(11.32 am)	17	after Ms Sturgess's death the Wiltshire coroner
18	THE CHAIR: Yes, Ms McGahey.	18	initially decided that the inquest should be a very
19	Submissions by MR MCGAHEY	19	limited one with a very narrow focus. The family
20	MS MCGAHEY: Sir, I would like to emphasise at the outset	20	challenged that decision in the High Court, which heard
21	that all Government departments and agencies are	21	the case in July 2020, and it wasn't until March 2021
22	100 per cent committed to completing all of their work	22	that the provisional scope of the widened inquest, now
23	for the inquiry as soon as they possibly can and they	23	this inquiry, actually became formalised.
			married and the second
24	are equally committed to the inquiry's final hearings	24	THE CHAIR: Yes, all right, so start in March 2021. I am
24 25	are equally committed to the inquiry's final hearings taking place as soon as possible.	24 25	THE CHAIR: Yes, all right, so start in March 2021. I am not so concerned, to be honest Ms McGahey, with going

1 ones in respect of which no redactions are likely to be 1 over why it's taken time until now, although it would 2 have been agreeable if it had been faster, I am much 2 3 more concerned with looking forward than looking back. 3 MS MCGAHEY: Sir, yes. 4 4 THE CHAIR: So there's bound to be -- one of the first MS MCGAHEY: Certainly, sir. I mention the history only in 5 an attempt to try to reassure the family who say, "Why 5 questions is: well, can we have those now? The reason 6 on earth when you've had all this material for 6 why you say they can't is what? 7 7 MS MCGAHEY: The reason, sir, the key word is "likely" and five years, and know that you are going to use it, why 8 haven't we seen it?" this is to do with the mosaic or the jigsaw effect. We 9 Q And of course for the first three we were looking simply do not know in respect of the majority of those 10 10 at -- for the first two we were looking at a much documents. We have not identified yet any redactions 11 narrower investigation. 11 that may be necessary. There are some documents that 12 12 THE CHAIR: Yes, all right. So start spring 2021, do we? could go out now. 13 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. Also the sensitivities around this 13 THE CHAIR: Yes, there must be. 14 inquiry are greater than those in the vast majority of 14 MS MCGAHEY: There are, but they are small in number and we 15 15 would not want to give any false expectations to the inquests and inquiries. Investigations into deaths 16 caused by terrorist atrocities often involve a lot of 16 family, the reason it would be safe to disclose them is 17 sensitive material that has to be protected, but the 17 that they are so anodyne they are very unlikely to be of 18 18 any significant help. So examples are the staff rosters terrorists who threaten the safety of the UK and who 19 might exploit sensitive information if it's disclosed by 19 for Zizzi and maps of the local area, which are not 20 mistake have absolutely nothing like the sophistication 20 going to advance anybody's knowledge on any of the 21 of a hostile state that is Russia. 21 issues that you are investigating. 22 22 THE CHAIR: Or any other hostile state. THE CHAIR: Scarcely relevant, I suspect. 23 23 MS MCGAHEY: Indeed, they've been identified as relevant so MS MCGAHEY: Indeed. 24 24 So we have to assume that anything that we put onto far by the inquiry team. 25 25 THE CHAIR: Yes, all right. any open system is no longer secure. Page 41 Page 43 THE CHAIR: Yes. MS MCGAHEY: Mr O'Connor has already explained why 1 2 MS MCGAHEY: So the reason for not publishing anything until 2 categories of relevance may shrink as the inquiry's knowledge develops. But one thing that it's crucial for 3 either HMG or this inquiry can be sure it carries no 3 4 more than a manageable risk has nothing to do with any 4 me to explain to the family is that HMG has to check 5 5 wish to withhold anything from the family and nothing to everything before it is sent out. So, for example, 6 do with any wish on the part of anyone to cause delay. 6 anything that might give a hint as to where the Skripals May I turn now, sir, more specifically to the 7 are now or that might help Russia to work out how and 8 8 reasons for which we ask that the restriction order when the perpetrators of the attack were identified must 9 9 applications should he dealt with in the way that 10 Mr O'Connor has summarised HMG's application. 10 THE CHAIR: Well, those are two rather different questions. 11 11 THE CHAIR: This is the form of the application, is it? Present whereabouts of the -- as an example you give, 12 Yes, go on. 12 yes. The other you suggest being as to how or when the 13 13 MS MCGAHEY: The family say, completely understandably, that alleged perpetrators were identified. 14 14 we must already have some material that the inquiry MS MCGAHEY: Or the means by which that was achieved. 15 legal team have identified as relevant and that they 15 THE CHAIR: Well, that's a different question. 16 16 should see it now and that they should see material on MS MCGAHEY: It's possible even that dates will be 17 a rolling basis and we understand why they say that. 17 sensitive. But HMG experts have to check not only their 18 THE CHAIR: Yes. 18 own material but all relevant documents disclosed by the 19 19 MS MCGAHEY: There are two main reasons for documents not police and by other core participants. 20 going out in redacted or any other form to the family 20 THE CHAIR: Yes. 21 21 MS MCGAHEY: The police investigation generated thousands of 22 22 documents. The Inquiry Legal Team are still working THE CHAIR: There are some documents aren't they, 23 Ms McGahey, in respect of which you and I think also 23 through them and they are identifying relevant material. 24 Operation Verbasco have in response to directions that 24 THE CHAIR: They are nearly there. 25 I was invited to give some time ago identified them as 25 MS MCGAHEY: They are, but the relevant material is then Page 44 Page 42

1 passed to HMG for checking and some of that has not even 1	The question is, in relation to that: what has been
2 reached us yet and that will all be material we have to 2	happening over the last year? Anyway, well have you
3 take into account.	done it? Have you started on have you made your
4 THE CHAIR: Yes. 4	draft redactions in relation to that? I imagine you
5 MS MCGAHEY: The family ask, again understandably, why HMG 5	probably have.
6 hasn't reviewed all of its own material for sensitivity 6 M	IS MCGAHEY: In relation to some of that material, some, of
7 from the outset. So we've identified material as 7	course the application will be that the entirety of the
8 potentially relevant. Why haven't we done our 8	document should
9 sensitivity review? 9 T	HE CHAIR: Yes, that may well be.
10 The answer is that that is because of a volume of 10 M	IS MCGAHEY: But of course
11 material involved. HMG has applied a wide test of 11 TI	HE CHAIR: But your very skilled team must have been
12 relevance in identifying material for disclosure to the 12	thinking about this and I don't want to guess you see,
13 inquiry. We had to do that in order to be as sure as we 13	Ms McGahey, I want to know what's actually happened, but
14 possibly could that everything that actually was 14	if it be the case that to some extent the exercise in
15 relevant was included. But the inquiry on receipt of 15	saying what needs to be redacted in our submission has
16 our material is selecting an ever-decreasing percentage 16	been done, then we are partway through this process
17 of that material for onward disclosure. So initially we 17	already.
18 found the key documents, most of those are relevant. As 18 M	IS MCGAHEY: Yes, we certainly are.
19 we go further down the process that percentage is 19 The	HE CHAIR: Good. Right.
20 getting smaller and smaller. 20 M	IS MCGAHEY: First, that has to be done and that is ongoing.
21 If we had started reviewing and redacting all of our 21	Secondly, having identified those redactions or
22 material a vast amount of work would have been wasted 22	those documents that we say should stay completely in
23 because the documents simply would not 23	closed, HMG has to compile a damage assessment to
24 THE CHAIR: In principle you don't have to persuade me at 24	persuade you and explain to you why we make the
25 least, Ms McGahey, that the disclosure process is an 25	application that we do.
D 45	D 47
Page 45	Page 47
1 ever-shrinking one, in other words the obligation on the 1 The	HE CHAIR: Yes.
2 holder initially is broad and it may be limited by 2 M	S MCGAHEY: Then we have to consider we have to put
3 subsequent decisions about relevance. But there must be 3	together the formal application itself and we are
4 some material which is so obviously central that it's 4	working hard at looking at alternative ways in which as
5 bound on any sensible assessment to figure in the 5	much sensitive information as possible can be made
6 eventual evidence that I have to hear, whether open or 6	public in a safe form, whether that's through limited
7 closed, and I think the question that I want to ask, 7	redaction, gisting or summarising in a witness
8 never mind anybody else, is whether any start has been 8	statement.
9 made on that? 9 TF	HE CHAIR: Yes.
10 MS MCGAHEY: Absolutely. 10 M	S MCGAHEY: The work to draft witness statements is going
11 THE CHAIR: The draft redactions are ready, are they?	on in parallel so that as much sensitive information can
12 MS MCGAHEY: The inquiry experts have identified 12	be made available that way as possible can be made
13 sensitivities in over 1,000 documents so far.	available in that way as well.
14 THE CHAIR: Yes, I am asking about looking at it from your 14 TH	HE CHAIR: Limited redactions, gisting, witness statements
15 point of view.	as means of achieving the maximum safe disclosure, is
16 MS MCGAHEY: Yes.	it?
17 THE CHAIR: I quite take the point that you will have had to 17 M	S MCGAHEY: Yes.
18 disclose things which may or may not ever figure. 18 TH	HE CHAIR: I have it.
19 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. 19 M	S MCGAHEY: That's the explanation for HMG not being ready
20 THE CHAIR: But there must be, and I think you agree but 20	right now at this very minute.
21 tell me if you don't, a central core of material which 21 TF	HE CHAIR: Yes, but it's also as I understand it from you,
	Ms McGahey, and I would expect nothing less,
	an assertion that this work is underway and has been for
	some time. Right.
	S MCGAHEY: That brings me to the second reason, simply the
25 THE CHAIR: Right. 25 M	5 West tile 1. That orings me to the second reason, simply the
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1 1 MS MCGAHEY: We are certain that would be the best way fact that the task is not yet complete and there are 2 several elements to it, but the second reason for not 2 3 disclosing everything now even in redacted form, it is 3 THE CHAIR: The next question is over which period should 4 4 that be done? I could between now and May, as I think of course possible for HMG to make at least provisional 5 the family suggest, or May and July as Mr O'Connor has 5 redactions --6 THE CHAIR: Yes. 6 as it were as a backup possibility or are you suggesting 7 MS MCGAHEY: -- for the purposes of a restriction order 7 some other period? 8 8 application in respect of some of the documents MS MCGAHEY: No, sir, my submission is that it should be 9 Q identified as relevant, because even though the done by July. 10 10 THE CHAIR: Why not May? relevance review is shrinking there are some, as you 11 said, sir, that are so obviously going to be relevant. 11 MS MCGAHEY: Because of the amount of work involved and the 12 As Mr O'Connor has suggested, and HMG agrees, for 12 fact that ultimately it is more time efficient to get it 13 application purposes the best way forward is to select 13 right, to make the sample as wide as possible, as 14 a sample of those documents. 14 comprehensive as possible and also to avoid mistakes, 15 THE CHAIR: Yes. 15 because it's so much better in my submission to do --16 MS MCGAHEY: As broad a sample --16 THE CHAIR: Well, on that principle we could extend it for 17 THE CHAIR: You agree about that, do you? 17 another five years couldn't we, Ms McGahey? That won't 18 18 MS MCGAHEY: Absolutely, both in terms of the range of 19 19 sensitivities and also the level of sensitivity. MS MCGAHEY: Not at all. Because a lot of the time taken 20 20 Everything from the truly obvious to the phrase from will depend on the sample, the size of the sample, the 21 which something sensitive might be inferred. 21 size of the documents. 22 THE CHAIR: Which is the point that's been made throughout THE CHAIR: Yes, it will. 22 23 23 MS MCGAHEY: So it will be HMG's submission, again possibly by the family? 24 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and careful selection of that sample we 24 better done by liaison, that the draft 25 hope will go a very long way to making sure that 25 Operation Verbasco report not be selected --Page 49 Page 51 an application you rule on on this basis can be --THE CHAIR: Come back to the police report, that's 1 1 2 THE CHAIR: It would effectively be a series of sample 2 a different question. 3 3 MS MCGAHEY: But we have to do this properly and thoroughly. applications? 4 MS MCGAHEY: It will, it may be that the principles that can 4 THE CHAIR: Yes. 5 5 MS MCGAHEY: It is in my submission so much better to allow be applied to that sample are readily applicable then to 6 other documents. 6 enough time to do a proper job than to make mistakes or 7 THE CHAIR: Yes. 7 worse say, yes, we'll try for May and then fail because 8 8 MS MCGAHEY: That is what we are hoping for. that then really does damage the timetable that's been 9 9 THE CHAIR: When you say that you agree with the principle put in place 10 of a sample set, as it were, of restriction order 10 THE CHAIR: Yes. Equally, the work tends to expand to fill 11 11 applications, are you contemplating or not applications the time available, it's a fact of life. 12 in respect of specific sample documents? 12 MS MCGAHEY: I think not in our team, sir. I think we are 13 13 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. under more pressure. 14 14 THE CHAIR: The end of May is eight weeks from now, isn't it THE CHAIR: Right, with proposed redactions, gisting or any 15 15 effectively? other appropriate mechanism to achieve the maximum 16 16 disclosure without putting people or national security MS MCGAHEY: Yes. 17 at risk? 17 THE CHAIR: The end of July another nine or ten weeks after 18 MS MCGAHEY: Yes sir. 18 that? 19 19 THE CHAIR: Right. Then its a question of when those can be MS MCGAHEY: Another nine. 20 selected -- well the next question, I think, is you have 20 THE CHAIR: Right. 21 an offer from Mr O'Connor and his team to liaise in the 21 MS MCGAHEY: There is, of course, Easter in the middle of 22 process of selecting representative samples. Would that 22 April and then three bank holidays in May, which does 23 be a useful exercise? 23 not help 24 24 THE CHAIR: Yes. MS MCGAHEY: Absolutely, sir. 25 THE CHAIR: That's the next stage. 25 MS MCGAHEY: But in my submission it would be right to Page 50 Page 52

1 choose July. It's the best estimate we can give for the 2 time that the work will take. Trying to accommodate 3 a shorter timetable may mean we have to ask to use fewer 4 documents, because clearly the fewer documents we have 5 the shorter the process will be and that may very well 1 a more generic level. 2 THE CHAIR: That I am not so sure about. 3 MS MCGAHEY: Certainly in open. 4 THE CHAIR: All right, anyway that's your submission 5 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and the key reason for that is the	
3 a shorter timetable may mean we have to ask to use fewer 4 documents, because clearly the fewer documents we have 5 the shorter the process will be and that may very well 5 MS MCGAHEY: Certainly in open. 4 THE CHAIR: All right, anyway that's your submission 5 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and the key reason for that is the	
documents, because clearly the fewer documents we have 5 the shorter the process will be and that may very well 5 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and the key reason for that is the	
5 the shorter the process will be and that may very well 5 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and the key reason for that is the	
	, yes.
	e mosaic
6 not be in the long-term interests of anyone at all. 6 or the jigsaw effect, us saying that it would not be	
7 THE CHAIR: On what format of application is this discussion 7 appropriate or safe now to put into open documents to	hat
8 premised, Ms McGahey? Are we talking about applications 8 have those redactions on them, because any applications	on
9 which are made available to all core participants 9 that we make at this stage in respect of any documen	t as
showing the open material and where the redactions 10 part of this sample will be provisional and it will be	
11 appear or are we talking about something else? 11 provisional because of the jigsaw effect.	
12 MS MCGAHEY: Something else, sir. 12 THE CHAIR: Provisional until when?	
13 THE CHAIR: The something else is? 13 MS MCGAHEY: Provisional until the entirety of the r	elevant
14 MS MCGAHEY: There would be an open element to the 14 material to be disclosed, or certainly the vast	
15 application, which would provide as much information as 15 majority, of it is known.	
16 we could about the sensitivities that we sought to 16 THE CHAIR: Well, no provisional from your point of	view at
17 protect. I can't give details that moment as to what 17 best until the conclusion of the inquiry team's	
that would look like, but it would be as open as we 18 relevance review is communicated to you.	
19 could make it while keeping sensitive material safe. 19 MS MCGAHEY: Yes.	
20 THE CHAIR: What you might be able to do is, by May even if 20 THE CHAIR: I mean I understand the principle of most	saic,
21 not the rest, use at any rate a sample. You see I don't 21 I am not at all sure how great the risk is, but I do	
22 at the moment understand what this going to look like 22 understand the submission that even if the risk is	
23 and, more to the point, nor will anybody else. 23 slight the potential damage may be great. In other	
24 MS MCGAHEY: It might very well 24 words even if the incidence of the risk is slight, the	
25 THE CHAIR: Until you sit down with a pencil it's no good to 25 potential damage might be great. But the theoretical	
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1 try to draft it on the hoof and I am not asking you to 1 possibility of the mosaic revelation continues to exis	t
2 do it, but what I might ask you to do or at least what 2 in effect ad infinitum, doesn't it?	
3 I perhaps might consider asking you to do, Ms McGahey, 3 MS MCGAHEY: No, sir, because once we know in its	entirety
4 is to produce at any rate one or two pretty soon so that 4 what material is to be disclosed, then our experts in	
5 the format can be seen. 5 their particular fields can look at all the material in	
6 MS MCGAHEY: You've seen something along what probably would 6 each particular area and say, "It's safe to do X" or,	
7 be the format, sir, in the names restriction order 7 "it's not safe to do Y".	
8 application. 8 I mean, it's absolutely true that as we go through	
9 THE CHAIR: Yes, I saw that, certainly. 9 this process we will try to pick up risky pieces of	
10 MS MCGAHEY: It may very well be that something like that, 10 information that put together might cause a problem.	In
in which a limited amount of information can be given. 11 my submission, sir, the risk is a very real one and it	
12 THE CHAIR: I'm afraid what I am thinking of is a proper 12 happens in real life. It happened very different	
13 restriction order application in respect of a particular 13 context in the case in which I was involved, it was	
14 document or documents as an example of what it would 14 a fraud. That was a case of a fraudster who was	
15 look like. 15 committing mortgage frauds and putting money into	
16 MS MCGAHEY: That could end up being quite time-consuming in 16 bank accounts in different banks in different names i	n
17 itself, sir, because we would need a full damage 17 towns on the south coast. Every day he was going in	ıto
18 assessment 18 each of these branches and taking out £500 in cash to	,
19 THE CHAIR: Yes, it probably would. 19 launder it, and he was a good-looking man and one d	ay
20 MS MCGAHEY: because if we chose a document that had six 20 there was a get together of bank cashiers on the south	1
21 or seven sensitivities in it we would end up focusing on 21 coast and one woman said just part of a chat, "There'	s
22 a damage assessment for that, it may be preferable 22 a really fit bloke who comes into our bank every day	and
23 THE CHAIR: You are going to have to do that sooner or later 23 takes out £500, I am going to ask him whether he has	s a
24 anyway. 24 girlfriend". And another cashier, from a completely	
25 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, but it may be preferable to have it at 25 different branch in a completely different town said,	
7. 51	
Page 54 Page 56	

1	"We've got a chap who does exactly the same". And as	1	for certain about the mosaic effect. It's for that
2	they discussed it they realised one of them knew him as	2	reason we say it will take, we think, doing the best we
3	"Jones" and one of them knew him as "Smith" and he was	3	can until the end of April 2024 to have a bundle of
4	arrested very shortly afterwards.	4	documents that can safely be put into the public domain.
5	THE CHAIR: Yes.	5	THE CHAIR: All right, well I understand that.
6	MS MCGAHEY: Each of those cashiers held information that	6	MS MCGAHEY: There's also another reason, sir, for not doing
7	was entirely anodyne and harmless on its own, put	7	this, not putting out into open any documents with
8	together it led to his prosecution. In the most	8	proposed redactions, because you may be against us. You
9	unlikely of circumstances the mosaic effect is very,	9	may decide that something that we flagged for redaction
10	very real.	10	should be made open or perhaps should be gisted or
11	THE CHAIR: I am not sure how likely that is, but anyway go	11	perhaps there's some other way that we've not thought of
12	on.	12	of making it public. If we have put a blacked-out
13	MS MCGAHEY: You've been given in closed further examples.	13	version into the public domain and we then have to
14	THE CHAIR: Yes, some.	14	change that document for an open one we are putting
15	MS MCGAHEY: The risk is a very significant one and also	15	a huge flag onto that opened material.
16	trying to put it right if there's an accidental mosaic	16	THE CHAIR: Well, forgive me, if I were to be against you it
17	identification is extraordinarily difficult.	17	would be because there wasn't a risk, it's a blacked-out
18	THE CHAIR: You are nevertheless contemplating that by end	18	document wouldn't it.
19	of July, mosaic effect notwithstanding, you can present	19	MS MCGAHEY: It may be because you felt that the public
20	me with a representative sample of restriction order	20	interest in disclosure outweighed the risk.
21	applications, are you not?	21	THE CHAIR: Yes, it might, but that's a ruling you are going
22	MS MCGAHEY: Yes.	22	to have to live with I'm afraid, isn't it? If it
23	THE CHAIR: Which must mean that by then, at least in	23	happens.
24	relation to all those documents, your team will have	24	MS MCGAHEY: If it happens. But if the document has not
25	been able to eliminate the risk of the mosaic risk, to	25	been made public there will be no particular focus on
			•
	Page 57		Page 59
1	the extent that it can be?	1	that sentence you have ordered should be unredacted, it
1 2		1 2	•
	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is	1	will going to public domain and any hostile actor
2		2	•
2 3	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen.	2 3	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we
2 3 4	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the	2 3 4	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and
2 3 4 5	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the	2 3 4 5 6	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they
2 3 4 5 6	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not	2 3 4 5	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place.
2 3 4 5 6 7	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not yet seen it. THE CHAIR: Right.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place. THE CHAIR: It would signal anxiety, I see.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not yet seen it. THE CHAIR: Right. MS MCGAHEY: The submission would be that we would be ready	2 3 4 5 6 7	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place. THE CHAIR: It would signal anxiety, I see. Given the sophistication of the perhaps hypothetical
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not yet seen it. THE CHAIR: Right. MS MCGAHEY: The submission would be that we would be ready to make in July an application that was fully closed for	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place. THE CHAIR: It would signal anxiety, I see. Given the sophistication of the perhaps hypothetical hostile bodies, should one not assume that they would be
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not yet seen it. THE CHAIR: Right. MS MCGAHEY: The submission would be that we would be ready	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place. THE CHAIR: It would signal anxiety, I see. Given the sophistication of the perhaps hypothetical hostile bodies, should one not assume that they would be likely to be able to deduce anything they wanted from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	MS MCGAHEY: Only as against those documents, the concern is the mosaic effect with a document we have not yet seen. So one of the documents that we put in identifies the bank account holder as Smith, we don't know about the one that identifies him as Jones, because we have not yet seen it. THE CHAIR: Right. MS MCGAHEY: The submission would be that we would be ready to make in July an application that was fully closed for that reason, with as great an element in generic terms as we could make in open.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	will going to public domain and any hostile actor looking at it won't realise there is anything special about it, but if it has once been redacted the we have to think about the knowledgeable, informed and hostile actor who thinks to him or herself why were they bothered about this in the first place. THE CHAIR: It would signal anxiety, I see. Given the sophistication of the perhaps hypothetical hostile bodies, should one not assume that they would be likely to be able to deduce anything they wanted from the open material or any material I added on this
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1 1 THE CHAIR: In what way? THE CHAIR: No, no, no, it's not a question of working out 2 what's under the redaction, that's the whole point about 2 MS MCGAHEY: -- in order to create as great a breadth as we 3 the redaction, Ms McGahey. 3 can we also wish to include some of the HMG material 4 4 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. disclosed in tranches 1 to 3. 5 THE CHAIR: The question is not whether someone can work out 5 THE CHAIR: Yes, in respect of which, as I understand it, 6 what's under the redaction, the question is whether they 6 you have already applied your minds to the question of 7 can see what is not under the redaction. 7 which sensitivities apply, although you have not gone on 8 8 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, in order to inform a submission, because at any rate universally to propose redactions or Q Q they say we can guess from the context that the subject alternative solutions? MS MCGAHEY: That's right, sir, yes. 10 10 must be X and therefore --11 THE CHAIR: No, it's simply because it's information which 11 THE CHAIR: So, batch 1 underlying police report documents. 12 12 is unsensitive and which ought to be in the possession MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and possibly not all of them, but again 13 of everybody concerned. 13 a representative -- a useful sample because the point of 14 MS MCGAHEY: In that case, sir, you have my submissions on 14 this exercise would be to give you the best sample 15 the reasons which --15 possible --16 THE CHAIR: I am grateful to understand it. All right. 16 THE CHAIR: Yes, it depends what they are. 17 MS MCGAHEY: There is a further reason, which is that if 17 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. 18 18 partially redacted documents are made available now, it THE CHAIR: But it might well be quite a lot of those, 19 19 may ultimately lead to less useful disclosure being I suspect. Samples from tranches 1 to 3, isn't it? 20 given to the family, because if we have put in something 20 Anything else? 21 that is really anodyne and not of great assistance, 21 MS MCGAHEY: No, sir, on the samples. 22 later we come across something we think the family 22 THE CHAIR: That you suggest by July? 23 should know we may not be able to disclose that latter 23 MS MCGAHEY: Yes. It's perhaps worth emphasising, sir, that 24 piece of information because of the mosaic effect with 24 I don't represent just one Government department, there 25 the earlier one that really didn't matter. 25 are 12 working on this. Page 61 Page 63 THE CHAIR: Yes, you say that in your written submission THE CHAIR: Yes, well that must be a special pleasure for 1 1 2 I think either paragraph 5 or 6, yes. 2 you, Ms McGahey. 3 MS MCGAHEY: HMG does understand, sir, that we are asking 3 MS MCGAHEY: It involves an awful lot of liaison with 4 you to allow us a lot of time to do something with a lot 4 an awful lot of interests at stake. 5 5 of care, but that is because of the importance of what THE CHAIR: Yes, I take the point. 6 we are doing. 6 MS MCGAHEY: Including overlapping ones, so it's not even as 7 THE CHAIR: All right -- sorry, go on. 7 though we just take one bunch of documents to one 8 MS MCGAHEY: Careful management of disclosure is absolutely 8 client. 9 9 THE CHAIR: It's a complex business, I know. 10 THE CHAIR: Central to the whole business of this exercise. 10 MS MCGAHEY: It really is. That's just one of the reasons 11 MS MCGAHEY: Yes, and it would be disastrous if an inquiry 11 which we ask for the time that we do. 12 intended to learn lessons actually led to us making 12 THE CHAIR: Right. 13 a mistake that made us less safe than we are now. 13 MS MCGAHEY: May come to the timetable more generally? 14 THE CHAIR: Yes. 14 THE CHAIR: Please. 15 Can I ask about the sampling process that you are 15 MS MCGAHEY: We would hope that all material would be available to the family by end of April 2024. It's of 16 comfortable with within the limits that you have 16 17 explained. The suggestion that is canvassed that 17 course right that once we have compiled the whole 18 I should consider is that it should apply to a selection 18 picture and taken out all mosaic redactions that we 19 19 from batch 1, everybody knows what I mean by that think necessary, and the inquiry agrees are necessary, 20 I hope, yes, and at least the supporting documents, the 20 you've ruled are necessary, it may very well be possible 21 underlying documents, which are exhibited to the police 21 to start disclosure on a rolling basis, simply as we go 22 22 report. Do you want to say anything about that as a, as through the physical process of putting the redactions 23 it were, target area? 23 24 MS MCGAHEY: No, sir. In fact we would probably seek to 24 THE CHAIR: Absolutely, you are likely to get a direction to 25 expand it slightly, because --25 that effect. When you say by April 2024, you mean Page 62 Page 64

1	completed by April 2024 having been a rolling process?	1	sample restriction order applications by the end of May
2	MS MCGAHEY: Yes, by the end of April 2024.	2	or the middle of June if you like so that principally
3	THE CHAIR: Sorry, did I say something else?	3	I but also the team can see the kind of format that it
4	MS MCGAHEY: No, not at all, I think I was just asking for	4	will adopt?
5	the extra four weeks by the end of April.	5	MS MCGAHEY: In my submission, sir, preparing a sample of
6	THE CHAIR: Yes, I am so sorry. Yes, all right. Yes.	6	the sample on a formal basis would be a distraction that
7	MS MCGAHEY: We have always recognised that the family would	7	would take up time.
8	need a period of several months between the end of that	8	THE CHAIR: It takes up time, I see.
9	process and the hearings. In our written submissions we	9	MS MCGAHEY: This is an iterative process and we've worked
10	suggested that the process might be completed by the	10	very cooperatively with the inquiry legal team so far,
11	summer with hearings in late autumn, so we had in mind	11	so I would hope that in the period between now and July
12	around four months. So we didn't suggest a period of	12	we could work with them to come up with a format that
13	two months and we are sorry if anybody interpreted our	13	was acceptable.
14	proposed timetable in that way.	14	THE CHAIR: Right.
15	THE CHAIR: All right. They are going to need quite	15	The alternative is that if you are obliged by
16	a period, aren't they?	16	direction to make all restriction order applications in
17	MS MCGAHEY: I am sorry, sir?	17	a form which discloses all the open material, what
18	THE CHAIR: They are going to need a decent a necessary	18	effect does that have, do you say, on the timetable?
19	period to absorb the material, make any applications	19	MS MCGAHEY: It probably wouldn't have an effect on the
20	they need to make for themselves and prepare generally	20	timetable, sir, because we'd be doing the same work in
21	for the hearing. Where does that take us to as	21	any event. It might add something in terms of the
22	a practical time to begin the hearing?	22	consideration that had to be given as to what was put
23	MS MCGAHEY: In my submission, sir, October or	23	into open. But overall I can't see that it would affect
24	November 2024.	24	the timetable.
25	THE CHAIR: Yes. October/November 2024.	25	THE CHAIR: Well, if one of the reasons for wanting to make
	Page 65		Page 67
	1 1,90 00		1 mge 07
1	MS MCGAHEY: It's perhaps more a matter for Mr Mansfield to	1	the restriction order applications in the form that you
2	address you rather than me on the length of time he	2	are suggesting is the risk of mosaic accidental
3	would like and we wouldn't in any way seek to curtail	3	disclosure, then, as I understood it, your point about
4	the time the family say they need.	4	that was that until you'd had time to digest all the
5	THE CHAIR: Either way, certainly if it was October and	5	material that the inquiry team has said would be
6	October happens to be the beginning of the legal year,	6	relevant you can't eliminate that particular risk. But
7	if it was fairly early in October, plenty of time to	7	the time will come when you can.
8	complete it before Christmas, wouldn't there?	8	MS MCGAHEY: Yes.
9	Not so long ago that I think I was being told this	9	THE CHAIR: By then, you would be in a position, wouldn't
10	was going to be happening in October 2023, never mind	10	you, to make restriction order applications in, as it
11	MS MCGAHEY: Always the way with inquiries, sir.	11	were, the open form?
12	THE CHAIR: That doesn't solve the problem, Ms McGahey,	12	MS MCGAHEY: I am sorry, sir, I had misunderstood your
13	whether it's true or not.	13	question, I had assumed you were thinking of a sample
14	MS MCGAHEY: It doesn't, but it is because disclosure always	14	basis but just make it open not closed.
15	causes these difficulties and this particular inquiry	15	Yes, we would still probably have the concern about
16	THE CHAIR: No, I have that point.	16	the chance you would say you would reject
17	All right, anyway that's your timing?	17	an application and putting a flag on something.
18	MS MCGAHEY: Yes.	18	THE CHAIR: I didn't find that very persuasive
19	THE CHAIR: Anything else proposed in your submissions which	19	MS MCGAHEY: We have thought about this and I will take
20	I ought to be considering at this point?	20	instructions again, but I understand we think we could
21	MS MCGAHEY: I don't think so. Thank you, sir. You have	21	probably do that by the end of the year.
22	our written submissions and I hope I have addressed the	22	THE CHAIR: Yes, okay.
23	key points now.	23	MS MCGAHEY: Because that's a very, very time-consuming
24	THE CHAIR: Yes. Just tell me again what the difficulty	24	process to get that 100 per cent right on the mosaic
25	would be about creating at any rate one or two of your	25	effect.
23		1	
23	Page 66		Page 68

1	THE CHAIR: Right, and in that event where are we with the	1	your team, not 66,000 and I should just explain briefly
2	final hearing?	2	the difference.
3	MS MCGAHEY: It shouldn't make any difference, sir.	3	There are a number of duplicates that accounts for
4	THE CHAIR: No, exactly.	4	the vast majority of the 16,000-odd difference between
5	MS MCGAHEY: I am instructed that we think December of this	5	the figures and other reasons, irrelevant systems data
6	year at the earliest, but assuming the restriction order	6	things like that.
7	application were made over everything then, and you	7	The headline figure of disclosure that we have given
8	ruled say at the end of January, that would allow	8	is 48,438.
9	it's very difficult to work, because we have no idea of	9	The international material.
10	the volume of material, but that would allow then say	10	THE CHAIR: Yes.
11	three months to do all the redactions or undo	11	MR BEER: This is mentioned in our submissions. It's picked
12	redactions, put everything on to Relativity.	12	up by the family and we've informed everyone that the
13	THE CHAIR: You are still talking about Easter-ish next year	13	international material has not presently been disclosed
14	for full disclosure?	14	to your team and your team is aware of the rules of law
15	MS MCGAHEY: I don't think it would make a significant	15	which presently prohibit us from disclosing it to them.
16	difference.	16	In their submissions the family ask what are the rule or
17	THE CHAIR: In which case the remaining timetable question	17	rules of law which prevent disclosure of the
18	is how long others need to absorb what is disclosed.	18	international material to the ILT.
19	All right. I think I understand that.	19	There are three rules that prevent it, each arises
20	Now I have conducted this rather Socratically,	20	in respect of different documents.
21	Ms McGahey. Don't let me stop you if I just keep	21	Firstly, evidence obtained following an ILOR, an
22	quiet for a moment, is there anything else you want to	22	international letter of request. Where evidence is
23	say?	23	obtained from a foreign law enforcement agency under
24	MS MCGAHEY: No, thank you.	24	an ILOR, section 9.2 of the Crime International
25	THE CHAIR: Are you sure?	25	Cooperation Act 2003, CICA, sets out the following
	Page 69		Page 71
1	MS MCGAHEY: Yes, thank you very much.	1	prohibition on its use:
1 2	MS MCGAHEY: Yes, thank you very much. THE CHAIR: Thank you very much	1 2	prohibition on its use: "The evidence may not, without the consent of the
2	THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.	2	"The evidence may not, without the consent of the
2	THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr Beer.	2 3	"The evidence may not, without the consent of the appropriate overseas authority, be used for any purpose
2	THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr Beer. Submissions by MR BEER	2	"The evidence may not, without the consent of the appropriate overseas authority, be used for any purpose other than that specified in the request."
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1 .			
1	indicated, disclose any evidence or information provided	1	mind that the explanation that must be given to the
2	by the executing authority except to the extent that its	2	foreign state is not necessarily a simple one, not every
3	disclosure is necessary or the investigations or	3	country has a tradition of public inquiries. Certainly
4	proceedings in the EIO."	4	not with a facility to hold closed evidential hearings.
5	THE CHAIR: It's confined to use in the investigation?	5	All of this has to be explained and understood by the
6	MR BEER: Yes, that's carried into effect by our own	6	authorities in the countries concerned.
7	regulations. I won't trouble you with how it's carried	7	I should say that in the interests of seeking to
8	into effect.	8	move the process along at a fast pace, a number of
9	THE CHAIR: No, I remember, yes.	9	months ago now we tried an alternative process with your
10	MR BEER: Again, it would bind both the police and the	10	team, with their agreement we summarised all of the
11	inquiry.	11	international material document by document. We did it
12	THE CHAIR: Yes.	12	in a way which we thought would not contravene any of
13	MR BEER: Thirdly, what I describe and what is described in	13	the rules of law I have mentioned. We invited your team
14	police parlance at least as police-to-police material.	14	to view the summaries that we had prepared to determine
15	This is material that is received from foreign law	15	which of the documents were sufficiently relevant to the
16	enforcement agencies on a more informal basis, often on	16	inquiry to trigger us to make a request to a foreign
17	an intelligence basis and is sometimes a precursor to	17	state to seek permission for collateral use.
18	either of the other measures that I have just mentioned.	18	That would have narrowed down the large number of
19	That's not therefore subject to a formal letter of	19	documents very considerably. Your team viewed the
20	request or the other statutory schemes.	20	summaries and did not feel able to decide whether
21	But the material is an indicator of the strength of	21	a document was or was not relevant from the summary. No
22	our relationships with those other four foreign law	22	criticism is intended of them whatsoever
23	enforcement agencies, relationships on which we and the	23	THE CHAIR: Yes, I see.
24	United Kingdom generally rely to protect our national	24	MR BEER: there, it was simply the limit of the material
25	security through the free flow of important sensitive	25	that we could disclose meant that they were unable to
	Page 73		Page 75
	1 490 10		1 1,50 / 0
1	intelligence. So to disclose that material to the	1	make a decision. What it does mean is that we are going
2			
	inquiry in breach of the conditions under which it was	2	through this process in relation to documents that are
3	inquiry in breach of the conditions under which it was supplied to us or for the inquiry then to disclose it to	2 3	through this process in relation to documents that are going to be irrelevant.
	• •		
3	supplied to us or for the inquiry then to disclose it to	3	going to be irrelevant. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR BEER: We have prioritised the approach to countries in
3 4	supplied to us or for the inquiry then to disclose it to core participants	3 4	going to be irrelevant. THE CHAIR: Yes.
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1	In order to expand on them I am afraid it's	1	described as queries to us, including suggestions for
2	necessary to spend a few minutes looking at the	2	topics to be included in the police report in due
3	aetiology of the police report.	3	course. This is an iterative process.
4	In early 2022 a version of what I am going to call	4	When they raise a query, we create a draft topic
5	"the document" was informally requested by your team as	5	summary in stand-alone form so that it can be amended
6	an aid to making initial relevance decisions by them in	6	more easily in due course as further relevant material
7	the stage 1 disclosure process. It was an aid for them.	7	to that query is identified. We've received hundreds of
8	That request was made at a time when the scheduling	8	queries from your team to date and we anticipate that
9	of the relevant material was not advanced, still less	9	there will be many, many more.
10	complete.	10	Your team has informed us that we can expect
11	THE CHAIR: When there was still the preliminary security	11	additional queries and suggestions as they progress
12	review going on?	12	further through their relevance review.
13	MR BEER: Yes, but from our perspective we hadn't got	13	THE CHAIR: Yes, because the document in question is no
14	through the scheduling looking at what the material was,	14	longer simply an aid to identifying sensitivities but is
15	we were writing a report on the basis of material we had	15	potentially a central document as part of the evidence
16	not yet read. Therefore key documents were not	16	that I am going to be asked to consider, yes?
17	available to the authors of it. So in producing that	17	MR BEER: Yes. So these queries, the hundreds that have
18	initial draft of the document, counsel for	18	come in, will be translated into text in the police
19	Operation Verbasco had to rely primarily on summary	19	report.
20	documents that had previously been prepared for the	20	THE CHAIR: Yes.
21	purposes of, for example, the criminal proceedings. So	21	MR BEER: We will amalgamate the stand-alone responses and
22	it's a synthesis of what somebody else has thought about	22	produce a final document, one that is being capable of
23	some primary material.	23	being signed off by the police rather than being
24	Following the hearing of March last year we were	24	a lawyer's draft, which is what it is at the moment.
25	directed to provide what was described as "an advanced	25	In short
	Page 77		Page 79
1	draft statement of events" to identify potential	1	THE CHAIR: Presumably somebody may need to speak to it?
2	sensitivities. This was, as we understood it and	2	MR BEER: Yes, but the important point, sir, is that the
3	understand it, a way to focus minds on which the	3	document has changed shape and purpose
4	restriction order process was to follow and to encourage	4	THE CHAIR: Yes.
5	some precision in identifying the scope of	5	MR BEER: in response to the different but proper
6	sensitivities.	6	requests of your team. It started as a document to help
7	I understand that's removing the rattle.	7	them make focused disclosure requests
8	THE CHAIR: Thank you.	8	THE CHAIR: Yes, I have that, Mr Beer. I am with you.
9	MR BEER: Thank you very much.	9	MR BEER: It's now to be applied for a rather different
10	THE CHAIR: In March 23, direction to provide?	10	purpose.
11	MR BEER: By June 2022 the advance statement of events and	11	The reasons why the current version of the report
12	the purpose had changed of the document here, from	12	shouldn't form part of the first wave of restrict order
13	an internal document to aid your team it had shifted to	13	applications are as follows.
14	be a document to encourage precision in identifying the	14	Firstly, the documents truly in draft. Nobody could
15	scope of sensitivities. In order to enable HMG to	15	yet affirm its accuracy on behalf of Operation Verbasco.
16	participate in that process it was necessary not to add	16	On the contrary, the draft report may be inaccurate in
17	substantive new sections to the document itself.	17	material respects because of the early reliance on
18	We produced an initial sensitivity review in	18	summary resources.
19	June 2022 and HMG provided a further review in	19	Secondly, the document is likely to change
20	October 2022. Since that time, as scheduling and	20	significantly in its structure and content. It is not
21	disclosure has progressed, we've continued to make	21	the case that the final version will simply reflect the
22	progress to a more complete version of the document.	22	current draft with some more added to it.
23	We've engaged in a collaborative process with your	23	Third, the current draft does not contain any of the
24	counsel team, whereby following their review of the	24	ILOR material.
25	underlying material that your counsel provide what are	25	THE CHAIR: Yes.
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	Page 78		Page 80
			20 (Pages 77 to 80)

1	MR BEER: That cannot be addressed until we've received	1	HMG that there should be no disclosure of any material,
2	relevant permissions from partner agencies in foreign	2	even material that has passed through the restriction
3	states.	3	order process and has been the subject of a ruling by
4	Fourthly, reference to the underlying material will	4	you until all of the material has been considered by HMG
5	provide a sufficient and better basis for these	5	for disclosure, ie there has to be no disclosure until
6	preliminary restriction order applications than the	6	the last document has passed through the process and
7	draft report. That's because the text of the current	7	then there will be a very large volume of disclosure all
8	draft does not knowingly contain reference to any of our	8	at once.
9	known sensitivities. We have not drafted it in a way to	9	That's not to say we do not understand and respect
10	include sensitive material. We have sought to progress	10	the reasons why HMG have taken that position. It's not
11	the draft as primarily an open document. It follows	11	necessary having regard to our sensitivities for us to
12	that including the draft itself in a preliminary	12	do the same thing. We are arguing about a very
13	restriction order application	13	different thing, we are not saying wait until right to
14	THE CHAIR: Wouldn't help.	14	the end and then give mass disclosure essentially,
15	MR BEER: wouldn't really assist in resolving the	15	because of the mosaic effect in particular. Instead,
16	approach to be taken in respect of police sensitivities.	16	our position is much narrower and it's whether the
17	It's fair to say that the current draft does contain	17	marked-up versions should be disclosed as part of the
18	text which HMG has identified as being sensitive, but	18	making of the application. We envisage that once you've
19	that is reflected in the sensitivity of the underlying	19	determined the application, then the documents over
20	material to which police report refers. Therefore, you	20	which the application was made can then be disclosed.
21	get the same value by looking at the underlying material	21	THE CHAIR: I follow.
22	as you would in looking at the report.	22	MR BEER: Essentially, the reasons why we say harm would be
23	THE CHAIR: Yes.	23	caused by disclosing the material before the
24	MR BEER: Fifthly, requiring a preliminary restriction order	24	applications are made are those given by Ms McGahey,
25	application to be made at this stage in respect of the	25	just to crystallise them from our perspective. Firstly,
	D 04		D 04
	Page 81		Page 83
1	document would result in a substantial duplication of	1	by highlighting the material which the applicant asserts
2	work if and when we have to go through the whole	2	is sensitive and which the applicant asserts would cause
3	exercise again when the report is finalised. That	3	serious harm to an important public interest, it's
4	applies both HMG and to Operation Verbasco, there will	4	placing a big red finger to the world at large alongside
5	be duplication for us and for them.	5	the material.
6	THE CHAIR: Right.	6	We assume
7	MR BEER: That's all I wish to say about the content, the	7	THE CHAIR: That's likely to happen when the redacted
8	first issue that Mr O'Connor mentioned.	8	document is disclosed in any event, isn't it?
9	Could I turn to the issue of the methodology and in	9	MR BEER: If the redaction is maintained, if you uphold our
10	particular whether the application for the restriction	10	application, they can't see what's underneath the
11	order must include disclosure of the actual documents	11	redaction and so it will be a red flag to nothing. But
12	over which the application is made to all core	12	this is in the event that you take a different view
13	participants.	13	THE CHAIR: I see, this is the failure point. Yes, I see.
14	THE CHAIR: I think the issue is whether it's certainly	14	MR BEER: Yes, and so it's not simply that you will have
15	not whether the application should include disclosure to	15	determined, as I think you said in argument with
16	everybody of the unredacted form, it's a question of	16	Ms McGahey, that there is no sensitivity, you will have
17	MR BEER: Yes, the marked-up versions.	17	determined that on balance the public interests in
18	There were two issues.	18	disclosure outweigh the interests relied upon by the
19	Firstly, whether this was required by the inquiry's	19	discloser for non-disclosure.
20	protocol. That's fallen away because Mr O'Connor has	20	THE CHAIR: Yes.
21	rightly suggested that the protocol can accommodate both	21	MR BEER: But that is a big red finger pointed. It will
22	approaches.	22	make it easier for any hostile state actor to identify
23	Secondly, whether harm will be caused by including	23	the material which the state believes is sensitive, even
24	marked-up documents in the application. I should make	24	if it loses the application. It's very similar to
25	it clear here that we do not adopt the same position as	25	collecting together the list of names of the police
	D 02		D
	Page 82		Page 84
			21 (Pages 81 to 84)

1	officers and disclosing them on mass; it makes the jobs	1	Option one, the subject matter of the application
2	of others with a malign intent that much easier.	2	would include batch 1 material and underlying documents.
3	There's an additional point. If one imagines a page	3	You'll see that in the third column, not the police
4	with the redaction on it, we are talking about	4	report. But we can file an application in the first
5	disclosure of the rest of the page without the	5	week of June, leading to a hearing date by the end of
6	redaction, that material is either irrelevant to the	6	July.
7	determination of what's under the blacked out passage,	7	Again, that's not to seek to undermine the position
8	in which case there's no point in having it at this	8	that HMG has taken and how long it says that it needs in
9	stage, or it's material that might point towards what is	9	order to file an application. But to be clear, we could
10	underneath the blacked out passage and is therefore	10	do it at a not dissimilar date to that suggested by the
11	something which may provide some assistance in the	11	family. You remember I think they said 23 May. We are
12	determination of the application for a restriction	12	saying the first week of June.
13	order, in which case that is material that should not be	13	THE CHAIR: So you can do batch 1 and the underlying
14	disclosed.	14	documents by then, but that's just you of course.
15	The third point I would make on this is that there	15	MR BEER: It is. It is. So that's just to be completely
16	is a reason that we have a public inquiry into	16	clear. Previously we had heard how long somebody else
17	Dawn Sturgess's death. It's because the machinery that	17	required and we simply said: yes, we can do it by then
18	the public inquiry brings to bear on the exercise	18	too. This is being transparent as to how long we in
19	includes the appointment of counsel to the inquiry, who	19	fact need.
20	may be DVed. They are the bulwark here, they are the	20	THE CHAIR: Yes.
21	protection, because they are the ones who know what is	21	MR BEER: I am not going to spend time going through options
22	underneath the redactions, as will you, and can fully	22	two and three because they may, in the light of what
23	test the state's assertion of public interest immunity,	23	Ms McGahey has said, not be realistic because HMG could
24	or whatever the harm is.	24	not do either of them. Option two includes all of the
25	Lastly on this point, if you order that the	25	batch 2 material.
	Page 85		Page 87
1	documents are disclosed in their marked-up form and	1	THE CHAIR: Yes.
2	Ms McGahey's additional tranches (her tranches one, two	2	MR BEER: And, importantly, it includes the SIO (the Senior
3	and three) are included, then we would require	3	Investigation Officer) logs which may contain material
4	additional time if they are going to be disclosed as	4	of importance for the purposes of a restriction order
5	open documents in order to view them and mark them up	5	application and option three is essentially all of our
6	for our own redactions. That's not an exercise that's	6	material which we could make an application over by
7	been undertaken to date. Whereas if they are going to	7	early October, so the whole lot.
8	be disclosed on a closed basis, the marked up versions,	8	Option three would take us to a final hearing much
9	we would not require that time.	9	sooner, even though the hearing date of the application
10	Can I turn to timing then, please.	10	itself would be in December 2023 and so will be a little
11	THE CHAIR: Yes.	11	distant from now. I just draw this to your attention to
12	MR BEER: Can you turn up please I think it's tab 6A in your	12	say we could make an application by June 2023.
13	bundle.	13	I am not going to address any of the follow-on
14	THE CHAIR: Yes. Yes, I have seen this.	14	stages because I think they are largely I won't use
15	MR BEER: You will recall that in our written submissions we	15	the word dictated, but affected more by others rather
16	essentially fell into line and agreed with a date at	16	than Operation Verbasco.
17	which the core participant who needed the most time,	17	THE CHAIR: Yes.
18	HMG, namely the end of July, needed and was working to	18	MR BEER: Is there anything more broadly that I can assist
19	in order to make their applications. We said	19	with?
20	essentially if that's what HMG require, then we can do	20	THE CHAIR: No, that's very helpful. I am grateful.
21	things by then.	21	Mr Beggs, do you want to add anything?
22	THE CHAIR: Yes.	22	MR BEGGS: No, sir. We will effectively fall in line for
23	MR BEER: But we have reflected on the position and you'll	23	the reasons mentioned (audio distortion). In any event,
24	see that we have set out three potential options, and	24	we are likely to have few, if any, documents that
25	I am just looking at option one at the moment here.	25	require restriction orders.
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	Page 86		Page 88

I			
1	THE CHAIR: Yes, all your documents have now been disclosed	1	to look forward, the problem we would suggest is this
2	in stage 1, haven't they?	2	which you put your finger on minutes later, which is
3	MR BEGGS: That's correct. There's just a transmission	3	that, rather like Parkinson's law itself, time gets
4	issue with relation to the emails, but that's being	4	filled and if latitude is given we say in fact it's not
5	resolved, I am confident of that, and so the answer is	5	just filled it's pushed back.
6	yes.	6	I just give one illustration of what's gone on here,
7	THE CHAIR: Thank you very much indeed.	7	because when this matter was converted from an inquest
8	Is there anybody else concerned, other than	8	into an inquiry I have the reference so I am not
9	Mr Mansfield? I think not.	9	asking you to look it up, but it comes in fact in the
10	Mr Mansfield, it's 12.50, what do you want to do?	10	submissions made in December 2021 by your learned
11	MR MANSFIELD: It might be sensible to break early for	11	counsel. It's worth just remembering what he said at
12	lunch.	12	that time. Now I am not trying to be hypercritical, one
13	THE CHAIR: We can either have a break now or you have one	13	understands the problem, but one has to bear in mind
14	quite soon after you've started.	14	that the family have been, as it were, recipients of
15	MR MANSFIELD: Yes. No, I think it would be if I may say	15	these statements. At paragraph 7 of his submissions in
16	so now, and then we come back a bit earlier.	16	December 2021, and what he said then was:
17	THE CHAIR: I wasn't going to offer an hour, I'm afraid.	17	"The coroner's intention is that substantive inquiry
18	MR MANSFIELD: No, that's all right. Whatever time you	18	hearings will commence in late February 2023."
19	think.	19	I won't read the rest of the paragraph because it
20	THE CHAIR: Does anybody have any difficulty in working	20	deals with specific dates in 2022 as well as 2023.
21	starting again at 1.30? Then let's do that. It's	21	-
22	Friday. It will help everybody I suspect.	22	As you pointed out this morning, at one time you were being told about October 2023, but we are not in
23	Thank you very much, 1.30.	23	_
24		24	2023, it's not going to be 2023 if we are lucky it might
25	(12.47 pm)	25	be 2024 and the real risk here which the family are
23	(The luncheon adjournment)	23	really concerned about is that there will be more
	Page 89		Page 91
1	(1.30 pm)	1	slippage and we will be in 2025, despite what everybody
2	THE CHAIR: All right? Try, Mr Mansfield. If you set it	2	says.
3	off we'll cope with	3	The first point is would you bear in mind that this
4	MR MANSFIELD: I hope I don't set that off, yes. Thank you.	4	slippage has already happened and there has to be some
5	Submissions by MR MANSFIELD	5	sort of line in the sand in which the family can rest
6	MR MANSFIELD: We have a division of labour, so that my	6	assured, because up till now very little that's also
7	learned friend Mr Straw will be dealing with	7	accepted by all parties has been communicated to them
8	post-disclosure matters.	8	about the circumstances of the death, other than the
9	THE CHAIR: Right.	9	very obvious matters. We would say a target date for
10	MR MANSFIELD: But I have some more general points to make.	10	the inquiry which hopefully is next year, not 2025, is
11	Obviously I don't want to occupy your time with matters	11	important to be adhered to in the longer run.
12	that may be regarded as irrelevant because it's matters	12	I appreciate the difficulties that provides for
13	that are unrealistic so I really want to be of as much	13	
	that are unrealistic so I really want to be of as much	1.5	some.
14	assistance to you in this matter as can be.	14	
			As far as the Government is concerned, they say they
14	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put	14	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional
14 15	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want	14 15	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional
14 15 16 17	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them,	14 15 16	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker
14 15 16 17 18	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them, I think watching today, have been, from the beginning,	14 15 16 17	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker portals of the inquest that went before that, but once
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14 15 16 17 18 19	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them, I think watching today, have been, from the beginning, exercising responsibility, patience and understanding.	14 15 16 17 18 19	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker portals of the inquest that went before that, but once it became an inquiry it's perfectly clear it was going to be exceptional.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them, I think watching today, have been, from the beginning, exercising responsibility, patience and understanding. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR MANSFIELD: I think it's in that context that I move to	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker portals of the inquest that went before that, but once it became an inquiry it's perfectly clear it was going
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them, I think watching today, have been, from the beginning, exercising responsibility, patience and understanding. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR MANSFIELD: I think it's in that context that I move to the question that arises next, which is the question of timing. I am going to put that next because I appreciate your observations this morning about not, as it were, looking too much into the past but wanting	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker portals of the inquest that went before that, but once it became an inquiry it's perfectly clear it was going to be exceptional. I am not placing any particular criticism at anybody's particular door, because we don't know, but it must have been possible in 2021, knowing that the timescale then was 2023, for there to have been a workforce of specialists and we can't scrutinise
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	assistance to you in this matter as can be. May I just some of these points I will just put them once and I think they are accepted points, I want to start with the family itself because all of them, I think watching today, have been, from the beginning, exercising responsibility, patience and understanding. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR MANSFIELD: I think it's in that context that I move to the question that arises next, which is the question of timing. I am going to put that next because I appreciate your observations this morning about not,	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	As far as the Government is concerned, they say they understand all of that and they say it's an exceptional case. But may we say it was known to be an exceptional case back in 2021. I don't even venture into the darker portals of the inquest that went before that, but once it became an inquiry it's perfectly clear it was going to be exceptional. I am not placing any particular criticism at anybody's particular door, because we don't know, but it must have been possible in 2021, knowing that the timescale then was 2023, for there to have been

1	you can, and maybe you have already, it would be of	1	We say that it's important because working backwards
2	importance to know just how many people are actually	2	again we don't know what the relevance priorities are
3	working on this aspect. Is it one or two, half a dozen	3	here, because there plainly are some topics are far
4	or what? Is it every day full-time or the situation	4	more relevant than other topics to the inquiry. In the
5	should be, we say, an exceptional case requiring	5	central ones, the really important ones, one would hope
6	exceptional resources so that we are not put in this	6	that specialists who have been in this field not just
7	parlous position of being told well we can't do anything	7	this year, not just when the Ukraine war started but
8	quicker than we are doing it.	8	before that, they are specialists one assumes that have
9	THE CHAIR: I understand all of that, Mr Mansfield.	9	been working in this arena for some time and therefore
10	MR MANSFIELD: Yes.	10	they will be in a much stronger position than starting
11	THE CHAIR: You, of course, have taken the point in the	11	from scratch.
12	past, and will no doubt understand it instantly, that	12	This is not the bank analogy whereby people are
13	I don't know exact numbers and I haven't enquired, nor	13	putting things together in some office somewhere and
14	at the moment do I intend to, but what is clearly right	14	trying to marry up bank clerks' accounts of who came
15	is that there is a limited number of specialists in the	15	into the bank and so on. These are people who have
16	particular field of the asserted hostile state.	16	continuity, the Russian experts have continuity, unless
17	MR MANSFIELD: Yes.	17	I am going to be contradicted in a way that makes life
18 19	THE CHAIR: And in that field, just at the moment, there are	18 19	difficult. But the position is we assume that they do and that therefore they will have made the connections
20	a large number of rather pressing calls on their time. MR MANSFIELD: They interlink of course, because as has	20	and will understand the risk of the mosaic effect, which
20	already been said if the lessons out of this case are	20	
22	not learned rather quickly, that's why we say	21 22	we say has become a kind of overriding, overweening cloud over the whole of this and it's disproportionate,
23	THE CHAIR: I've got that.	23	disproportionate that that should become the determining
24	MR MANSFIELD: it's an exceptional case requiring	23	factor, that risk.
25	exceptional resources.	25	In this context therefore the framework of
23	exceptional resources.	23	in this context diefelore die framework of
	Page 93		Page 95
1	THE CHAIR: I understand that.	1	relevance, what's really central and what is not? Well,
2	MR MANSFIELD: I can't put it higher than that.	2	I can deal with the what is not rather quickly because
3	In sequence therefore if one is looking at an end	3	I raised it last time in the hope that the logjam could
4	date outcome of 2024, then one has to work back to some	4	be, as it were, cut through. In other words, there must
5	extent. The working backwards comes to the family's	5	be things that, say documents and people as well,
6	role if they are going to perform a meaningful role	6	witnesses, for whom no restriction order is going to be
7	in this inquiry they need the information that is not	7	made.
8	going to put the state at risk, one appreciates that.	8	Now what the Government are saying, it would appear,
9	If they are not going to get anything on one	9	is:
10	interpretation of proceedings from now on they may not	10	"Well, we have complied in the sense we've told you
11	get anything until the spring of next year and if the	11	what we intend not to do, but we can't give you a final
12	inquiry is going to start, as we suggest it should, in	12	answer."
13	the same year, it's going to be extremely difficult for	13	So we are back into the same quagmire that no
14	them to mount the kind of enquiries they would	14	progress is made so we don't know.
15	legitimately want to make. May I develop this a bit,	15	But may I just in this particular context I have
16	because we say that again the observations you've made	16	asked that the ruling on scope, which I'm afraid isn't
17	about what is central, and must have been obvious to	17	in the papers
18	Her Majesty's Government was going to be central to this	18	THE CHAIR: No, I remember it. I have seen it.
19	inquiry from 2021 onwards so that you triage and	19	MR MANSFIELD: I won't take time if you remember it.
20	prioritise. What's central to the inquiry? What's	20	THE CHAIR: I remember it well enough, I think.
21	inevitably going to arise? Have you done a sensitivity	21	MR MANSFIELD: Yes, what I wanted to just do is
22	review? Well the answer to this morning was, if we may	22	THE CHAIR: Don't let me stop you, Mr Mansfield, but I am
23	say so, somewhat vague, yes, they've done it but how	23	not coming to it new, I have seen it.
24	much have they done? Where this proof of what they've	24	MR MANSFIELD: Yes, I am much obliged. The point about this
25	done? Again, we can't ask for that.	25	particular document, the ruling itself, is that there
		I	
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1 are various headings which are of importance. For 1 and	d the death of Dawn.
2 example, the death of Dawn Sturgess if I read through 2	Then there's another area of time covered by CCTV,
3 the four headings, is it really being said by 3 wh	nich is the next section.
4 Her Majesty's Government that there is nothing more that 4	We say that that is an important area that we would
5 we can be shown at this minute, right now? We say there 5 nee	ed to look at. Of course the police I assume have
6 must be more material that we can see, particularly, for 6 do	ne that, but we have nothing on that. One thing that
7 example, the second italicised or Roman numerals, 7 wo	ould help would be access to the CCTV now, because it's
8 paragraph 32 under the heading of "Death, events from 8 go	ing to take as you may appreciate a little time
9 beginning of June until 8 July 2018", I am going to 9 to	go through and see what is there. Of course this
10 pause from that 10 bea	ars upon the topic I have stopped at, which is
11 THE CHAIR: Events from when? 11 par	ragraph 2 of paragraph 30. That is this, that the
12 MR MANSFIELD: It's from the poisoning itself. June 2018 to 12 bo	ttle is found, is said to have been found in a refuse
13 8 July, which is the death of Dawn Sturgess. 13 bir	n, one of those wheelie bins, a rather large one,
14 I pause on that one, because it branches off into 14 nea	arby a shop. The question is how obviously the
15 another whole area I can give as an example of why 15 qu	estion is how did it get there, and CCTV could be, may
16 essentially the proposition I am coming to is we need 16 no	t be, important because it's a very long period for
17 rolling disclosure if I can put it that way, rather than 17 a s	sealed bottle to finally find its way onto the top or
18 waiting until the end and getting mass disclosure. I am 18 nea	ar the top of a bin
19 using the vernacular that's been adopted. 19 THE	CHAIR: Several assumptions but I understand the
20 THE CHAIR: No, I understand. 20 po	int.
21 MR MANSFIELD: Therefore under that heading what is of 21 MR M	MANSFIELD: They are assumptions, but they are
22 interest to the family, not only what bears upon that 22 ass	sumptions, some of them, based on what people say, in
23 particular heading, but it also bears on the next group 23 oth	ner words evidence
24 of points under the poisoning. I pause for a moment 24 THE	CHAIR: Rather a lot of people have made a lot of
25 under this one, namely events between those two dates. 25 ass	sertions in this case, that's one of the problems.
Page 97	Page 99
1 There is we know, because it's in the public domain 1 The	e purpose of the inquiry is to find out what actually
2 and it's obvious anyway, a mass of CCTV. This is 2 hap	pened.
3 important because there is CCTV in Salisbury which 3 MR M	MANSFIELD: Exactly, so we say with that in mind CCTV
4 relates to the roads where the Skripals were living at 4 THE 0	CHAIR: I have the CCTV point.
5 the time, people who are walking the roads, driving the 5 MR M	MANSFIELD: Then there are other
6 roads. Then there is CCTV in the centre of Salisbury in 6 THE 6	CHAIR: I think it's helpful, Mr Mansfield, if you think
7 quite a lot of different places named by people who were 7 you	can identify areas of potential evidence, like CCTV,
8 present on the day and as well as Salisbury there is 8 who	ere you suggest it may well be that there is nothing
9 CCTV in Amesbury, CCTV in London, which relates to 9 rem	notely controversial about it, with the possible
10 a hotel where there are now three suspects but at 10 exc	eption of the location of the cameras, for example.
11 least two of them were, there is CCTV in relation to 11 MR M	ANSFIELD: Yes.
12 that. CCTV into other movements in London and then 12 THE 0	CHAIR: Then it may be helpful, I don't know whether it
13 outside London, Gatwick Airport. 13 will	l or not. This is coming fresh quite late in the
14 This involves again I am not stating a state 14 day	But I am not complaining about that. I think it's
	. But I am not complaining about that. I think it's
15 secret here, there is an allegation in a film that's 15 quit	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything
15 secret here, there is an allegation in a film that's 15 quit 16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else 17 Gatwick they were followed and Skripal himself was 17 MR M	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else 17 Gatwick they were followed and Skripal himself was 17 MR M 18 followed. Now whether that's true I don't know. CCTV 18 exa	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything 2? 4ANSFIELD: Yes, another area I have only extracted
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else 17 Gatwick they were followed and Skripal himself was 18 followed. Now whether that's true I don't know. CCTV 18 exa 19 would be relevant to all of that 19 tele	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything ?? **AANSFIELD: Yes, another area I have only extracted mples, there are more but anyway the next one is
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 17 Gatwick they were followed and Skripal himself was 18 followed. Now whether that's true I don't know. CCTV 18 exa 19 would be relevant to all of that 20 THE CHAIR: When who arrived there? 20 don	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything 2? ANSFIELD: Yes, another area I have only extracted mples, there are more but anyway the next one is phonic evidence. In other words, it's in the public
16 been made about all of this that when they arrived at 16 else 17 Gatwick they were followed and Skripal himself was 18 followed. Now whether that's true I don't know. CCTV 18 exa 19 would be relevant to all of that 20 THE CHAIR: When who arrived there? 21 MR MANSFIELD: When the daughter arrived for the weekend. 21 con	te useful if you do it, so CCTV I have. Anything ANSFIELD: Yes, another area I have only extracted mples, there are more but anyway the next one is ephonic evidence. In other words, it's in the public main that telephone numbers were known, not the
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1	THE CHAIR: Comms data, yes, okay.	1	her Ladyship had a clear view on this and it's
2	MR MANSFIELD: It's that kind of material.	2	an important paragraph for what I am dealing with now:
3	Then again I am looking at the list that we have out	3	"On balance, and given the possible causal route
4	of the scope issues, the novichok itself is of interest	4	connection between the attack on Mr Skripal and the
5	or may be of interest. Well, it's the central agent	5	poisoning of Ms Sturgess, I am satisfied the issue is
6	here. The question is the link between the novichok and	6	potentially relevant to the question of how Ms Sturgess
7	where it was found in Salisbury in terms of where it was	7	died. But at this stage [as I have already indicated
8	distributed, not the bottle, but where was it found on	8	this was in 2021] any request for disclosure on this
9	a door handle, on a car handle and so on, these are all	9	issue must be reasonable and proportionate."
10	matters of the distribution and it ties into is it	10	With which we agree. The question is do we wait
11	how does it compare with the bottle and the novichok?	11	well, I will put it twofold.
12	There is scientific evidence as we understand it, but we	12	First of all, there must be some material that can
13	have not seen it.	13	be released without sensitivity, some, for example that
14	So may I just put it	14	precautions are taken. Well, obviously it leads to
15	THE CHAIR: The identity of the material?	15	further questions. But do we wait
16	MR MANSFIELD: Yes, scientific evidence, which we can't	16	THE CHAIR: Be realistic, you are talking about potential
17	imagine is subject to any kind of restriction order.	17	hostile state attacks, the availability and use of
18	THE CHAIR: I wouldn't be too sure about that, Mr Mansfield.	18	precautions is potentially high.
19	MR MANSFIELD: In view of what was said publicly by various	19	MR MANSFIELD: Potentially. That's why I think it's that
20	politicians, unless they have it wrong, which is	20	phrase that's important. What I am coming to is do
21	possible.	21	we for this topic, there's another one, do we wait
22	THE CHAIR: But the extent of the defensive knowledge,	22	until the mass
23	defensive corporate knowledge of potential dangerous	23	THE CHAIR: Yes, okay.
24	agencies is highly sensitive potentially, isn't it?	24	MR MANSFIELD: It's that one. And there are others which if
25	MR MANSFIELD: Well, potentially sensitive but actually	25	would be of use, I am quite happy to provide a list of
	Page 101		Page 103
1	there's quite again it might not be true, but there's	1	other topics now.
1 2	there's quite again it might not be true, but there's quite a lot of material in the public domain about this.	1 2	other topics now. THE CHAIR: It's better I think if you provide it to
			·
2	quite a lot of material in the public domain about this.	2	THE CHAIR: It's better I think if you provide it to
2 3	quite a lot of material in the public domain about this. THE CHAIR: That's exactly right, it might not be true. It	2 3	THE CHAIR: It's better I think if you provide it to counsel.
2 3 4	quite a lot of material in the public domain about this. THE CHAIR: That's exactly right, it might not be true. It might be true yet highly sensitive and to confirm it	2 3 4	THE CHAIR: It's better I think if you provide it to counsel. MR MANSFIELD: I will, yes.
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1	know.	1	MR MANSFIELD: The content.
2	THE CHAIR: I don't think	2	THE CHAIR: the format. Do you want to say anything
3	MR MANSFIELD: I realise I am dancing in the dark as usual,	3	about the suggestion that the way to do it is to get
4	but it's a situation I think you have the point that	4	down to some examples?
5	we make. So we would ask therefore that and of	5	MR MANSFIELD: Absolutely, and I think your question to my
6	course it applies to the second round as well, so	6	learned friend about, "Well, have you done a review,
7	I don't need to go through that. But we would welcome	7	either of sensitivity or security, of the central
8	at any stage a form of rolling disclosure so that we	8	documents?" And we didn't get an answer to that, but
9	don't get it all in one go. That's really what it comes	9	there seems to be great difficulty in giving examples
10	to.	10	today of the sort of applications that are going to be
11	Unless there is any other I have put it in	11	made. So the answer to your question is, yes, there
12	general terms, but I hope that's helpful in terms of how	12	ought to be express examples of exactly what it is that
13	we are thinking about it.	13	they are worried about in terms of an overall because
14	THE CHAIR: That is extremely helpful, Mr Mansfield. If	14	one document might have several levels of sensitivity.
15	I were to adopt your approach which is a perfectly	15	THE CHAIR: Absolutely.
16	conventional case management approach starting with as	16	MR MANSFIELD: Just getting a sample may not be
17	it were start date	17	satisfactory, but we only know when we begin to see
18	MR MANSFIELD: Yes.	18	them.
19	THE CHAIR: and working backwards, which to some extent	19	THE CHAIR: What's contemplated is that I should have
20	case management always involves. If you were right that	20	samples, representative samples, to rule upon in late
21	these hearings ought to begin in the autumn of 2024.	21	summer/early autumn of this year
22	MR MANSFIELD: Yes.	22	MR MANSFIELD: Yes.
23	THE CHAIR: Which I think you are saying to me.	23	THE CHAIR: and that thereafter that will accelerate and
24	MR MANSFIELD: I am, yes.	24	ease the subsequent resolution of more restriction order
25	THE CHAIR: So if I am aiming at October, or conceivably the	25	applications. Are you content with that as a general
	D 405		T
	Page 105		Page 107
1	beginning of November, in order to get it done by	1	approach or not?
1 2	beginning of November, in order to get it done by Christmas	1 2	approach or not? MR MANSFIELD: Can I put it this way, somewhat neutral
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Christmas MR MANSFIELD: Yes. THE CHAIR: for example, how long before that do do I correctly divine from the submissions which you have formulated for me and which I've seen that subject to your rolling disclosure point you are thinking in terms of at least about six months. MR MANSFIELD: As you put it, subject to the rulings, yes. THE CHAIR: Of course, subject to rulings and subject to the obvious advantages from your point of view of such rolling element of the disclosure as can be achieved. MR MANSFIELD: Yes, because if it's a mass version then I think it will be a little longer than six months. THE CHAIR: Right. Do you want to say anything, Mr Mansfield, about the type of procedure that has been ventilated, the suggestion is that I should encourage in fact not encourage, require MR MANSFIELD: Yes. THE CHAIR: sample restriction order applications to be made some time this summer basically. MR MANSFIELD: Well, we certainly support the earliest possible date that that could happen.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	MR MANSFIELD: Can I put it this way, somewhat neutral because we really don't know whether that is satisfactory because we don't have the rest of the material to know whether the samples are really going to be a sensible workable way of doing it. THE CHAIR: You'll have to leave that, the selection of them, as indeed shall I, to them. All right. Thank you that's helpful. Thank you very much indeed. Mr Straw. Submissions by MR STRAW MR STRAW: If I may, I would like to talk about the mechanics of restriction orders. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR STRAW: Perhaps the key point which I would like to start on is the question as to whether nonsensitive parts of the documents that underlie the restriction orders will be disclosed to core participants. THE CHAIR: Yes. MR STRAW: The basic legal requirement that underlies all of this you've mentioned twice at least already, sir, today is that as much as possible of the application, the submissions and the evidence to which it relates must be disclosed without undermining the purpose of the

	d . 200 a d 1	1	THE CHAIR IN COLLEGE AND A STATE
1	that. That's the basic principle that is being applied	1	THE CHAIR: I'm afraid I think that's likely.
2	here.	2	MR STRAW: Maybe it comes to another point then, which is
3	But there's very good reason for that principle,	3 4	that Mr Beer and Ms McGahey drew attention to the fact
4 5	which I think can be summarised in the basic point that context is everything. It's incredibly difficult, as	5	that this a balancing exercise, but in reality if national security interests are claimed over material if
6		6	you decide that material is sensitive and should be
7	everyone knows who makes these applications or considers them, to do so effectively unless one sees the	7	withheld for reasons of national security, then that's
8	documents.	8	the end of the issue. So in reality in these cases if
9	The first point I would like to draw attention to is	9	you make a direction at least in respect of the majority
10	a conflict between the Government and Operation	10	of the information, if you decide to reject
11	Verbasco's approach.	11	a restriction order application and something can be
12	So Mr Beer has accepted that once you've made the	12	disclosed that's because it's not sensitive.
13	preliminary restriction order rulings then at least the	13	THE CHAIR: You mean that it's rather unlikely in the
14	subject that you've identified as nonsensitive or that	14	context of this case that the ruling is likely to be
15	you've identified as should be disclosed in accordance	15	well, yes, there is risk to national security but it's
16	with that restriction order can then be disclosed to	16	one which we can take?
17	core participants.	17	MR STRAW: Yes.
18	As I understand Ms McGahey's submissions, it still	18	THE CHAIR: I see all right.
19	can't be disclosed. It's only at very end of all the	19	MR STRAW: In reality talking about nonsensitive or at least
20	process. That even that information that you've ruled	20	the majority of this nonsensitive information, so the
21	can be disclosed can't be disclosed. One only needs to	21	red finger point doesn't really hold. Drawing attention
22	say it to see how that completely subverts the whole	22	to something that is not sensitive doesn't matter.
23	process. If the Government wants something to be	23	The next issue I would like to address, if I may, is
24	withheld they have to apply to you for that to happen.	24	I think Mr Beer suggested that seeing the nonsensitive
25	If you rule against them, then the information has to be	25	parts of the document won't help us, won't help the
	,		1 / 1
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1	disclosed, pursuant to section 18, pursuant to open	1	family to make submissions. If that is what he was
2	justice principles and so on.	2	saying, then it's plainly wrong. As I have said
3	We would respectfully submit that at the very least	3	everyone knows who make these applications that one
4	this information should come to us and other core	4	needs to see the documents. One needs to make
5	participants once you've made your preliminary ruling,	5	submissions about the importance of the particular
6	insofar as you've ruled that it's something that can be	6	documents itself, the importance of the witness to the
7	disclosed.	7	inquiry in order to make these submissions. Then seeing
8	That's a basic starting point. There's another	8	the document with a redaction in it helps understand the
9	point though that I would like to address, which is the	9	relevance or the place in the inquiry's terms of
10	red finger point. This is the concern that things	10	reference, even if one can't see what's under the
11	shouldn't be disclosed now because of the risk that you	11	redaction. So this is something important.
12	may ultimately rule against the Government or the police	12	Mr Beer also drew attention to the role of counsel
13	and that will put a red finger next to what the	13	to the inquiry and suggested that counsel to the inquiry
14	information is.	14	can make these submissions and the implication is the
15	We would say that submission is flawed.	15	family don't need to, but the problem with that is the
16	Firstly, the information at this stage is only being	16	family have a right to participate in the process,
17	disclosed to core participants. So it's not being	17	whether or not Mr O'Connor will be doing that.
18	disclosed to the general public.	18	That's really all I would like to say about that
19	THE CHAIR: That's right, Mr Straw, but the mechanics of	19	area, the nonsensitive part being disclosed to core
20	disclosure will probably be digital and if there is	20	participants.
21	a genuine threat, hostile state threat, the digital	21	I should briefly rule 12.4, we haven't made
22 23	mechanics are unlikely to be proof against intrusion,	22 23	submissions about rule 12.4 yet because we think it's
	aren't they? MP STP AW: That's a matter out of my hands. Lam hanny to	23	premature to do so, but we would be grateful once
24 25	MR STRAW: That's a matter out of my hands, I am happy to accept that if that's the position.	25	applications have been made at least to have an opportunity to make submissions about that.
23	accept that it that is the position.	23	an opportunity to make submissions about that.
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1	THE CHAIR: Right.	1	open of why the Government have come to the conclusion
2	MR STRAW: The next topic is the suggestion that under the	2	that Russia was behind this, and he gave
3	first restriction order applications at least a sample	3	THE CHAIR: He didn't say very much about why, did he? He
4	of documents will be given to you, sir, to enable you to	4	certainly made the assertion.
5	consider the application. It seems now, thankfully,	5	MR STRAW: I think I remember, if I remember rightly, he
6	that everyone agrees that that sample should be as	6	talked about four different categories, propensity and
7	representative and as wide as possible. That was how	7	so on.
8	I understood Ms McGahey put it.	8	THE CHAIR: Anyway, the point being that where does
9	THE CHAIR: I think they do and I think to be fair,	9	Sir Mark's letter fit into this submission?
10	Mr Straw, the origins of the necessity for that are in	10	MR STRAW: The point being we would be grateful if possible
11	your written submissions of some time ago.	11	if we can have opportunity to make comment on a closed
12	MR STRAW: Well, I am clad to see there's agreement on that.	12	list of issues before it's made. I appreciate that that
13	The only supplementary point is if the draft report	13	will simply be us saying, "Please consider putting this
14	isn't going to be	14	in your closed list" and we won't be able to see the
15	THE CHAIR: The draft police report.	15	list itself.
16	MR STRAW: Draft police report, sorry, yes, isn't going to	16	THE CHAIR: I see, to make submissions about inclusion?
17	be a subject of first restriction order application,	17	MR STRAW: Yes, but I don't suggest we should see the list
18	then that makes it all the more important that the	18	or anything like that.
19	underlying documents is a broad and representative	19	THE CHAIR: I'm afraid not.
20	sample.	20	MR STRAW: Obviously not.
21	THE CHAIR: Yes, I have that.	21	One final point about the closed note of the
22	MR STRAW: We would be grateful, if it can be revealed to	22	hearing.
23	us, that if at some point in the process what the	23	There are a couple of suggestion in it, and it's
24	documents were that fall within the sample is revealed	24	unclear whether this is correct or not, but there are
25	to us.	25	some suggestions that if gists are being provided of
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1	To some extent they won't be able to, because they	1	documents or if sensitive witness statements are being
2	will be sensitive but to the extent that they are not	2	provided, then that's a substitute for the documents
3	sensitive, so those documents where it's only part of	3	themselves so it's not necessary to provide or disclose
4	the documents that's redacted we would be grateful if	4	the underlying document if they are being summarised in
5	that could be revealed us to, because that may assist us	5	a witness statement.
6	later in the process. For example, if we want to make	6	THE CHAIR: Right.
7	submissions that the restriction orders or redactions	7	MR STRAW: We would say that's wrong, that pursuant to the
8	should be revisited or altered, then knowing what was	8	best evidence rule the underlying documents at least
9	before you at the early stage may assist us.	9	need to be disclosed to you, sir, and your team.
10	I would like to move on, if I may, to the closed	10	THE CHAIR: No, no, you may assume that that will be done.
11	hearing notes, so the note that was produced at the	11	The purpose of gisting in this context is to provide the
12	closed hearing. For which we are grateful, it really	12	parties who cannot see the closed material with as much
13	helps focus submissions. That note referred to the	13	information about it as can be achieved safely.
14	potential of a closed list of issues. If a closed list	14	MR STRAW: Of course if that's done pursuant to
15	of issues is going to be produced, then we would be	15	a restriction order then it's perfectly proper. It's
16	grateful for an opportunity to make comments or	16	the suggestion that it's just done even if there's no
17	suggestions about it. We are hugely inhibited from	17	restriction order, the suggestion that a witness
18	being able to do so, but we hope we may be able to make	18	statement is enough, you don't need to see what's
19	at least a few comments.	19	underlying.
20	THE CHAIR: I'm not sure that's not a contradiction in	20	THE CHAIR: No, gisting needs authority, I agree. Right.
21	terms, Mr Straw.	21	MR STRAW: Thank you.
22	MR STRAW: To be specific, Sir Mark Sedwill's notes, we	22	The final point I hope to cover is just about
23	would draw attention to that and ask that those are	23	international material. We are grateful for the
24	included within the closed issues. So Sir Mark Sedwill	24	explanation Mr Beer has given today about it. Again, we
25	addressed the security council and gave a description in	25	may not want to say anything about it, but if we can
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			20 (Pages 113 to 116)

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1	have an opportunity to provide something in writing
2	relating to that in the next couple of weeks.
3	THE CHAIR: Yes, certainly. If, on reflection, and indeed
4	after conversation with Mr Beer if necessary, because he
5	probably has rather more chapter and verse than he
6	volunteered in short submissions here, but, yes, if you
7	want to put in written submissions about the law
8	applicable to international material, of course you may
9	and I will include it in whatever directions I give.
10	Let me just make a note.
11	Three or four weeks, something like that?
12	MR STRAW: We'd hope two weeks.
13	THE CHAIR: Two weeks. Thank you very much indeed. Thank
14	you, Mr Straw.
15	Mr O'Connor, do you want to come back?
16	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, no, I have nothing that I wish to raise
17	in reply. Of course if there is anything I can assist
18	you with
19	THE CHAIR: No, I don't think so. Thank you.
20	If I may say so, that's been a helpful exercise.
21	That doesn't mean that it won't have been frustrating on
22	both sides to some that's in the nature of the
23	beast. I don't propose to try to devise directions, as
24	it were, on the hoof now but what I will do is give
25	directions in writing as soon after today as I possibly
	y
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1	can, I would hope before Easter.
2	On the assumption that nobody else has anything to
3	add, thank you very much for coming and for dealing with
4	it expeditiously. I am grateful.
5	(2.10 pm)
6	(The hearing concluded)
7	
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