

<p>1 Friday, 18 December 2020 2 (9.30 am) 3 Pre-Inquest Review Hearing 4 THE CORONER: Good morning. 5 MR HOUGH: Good morning, sir. 6 As you know, I am appearing with Aaron Moss as 7 Counsel to the Inquest, instructed by Tim Suter of 8 Fieldfisher as Solicitor to the Inquest. 9 Rajiv Menon QC appears for the family of 10 Sudesh Amman, instructed by Tuckers. 11 Neil Sheldon QC is for the Metropolitan Police 12 Service, MPS, instructed by the Force Legal Department. 13 Bilal Rawat is for the Secretary of State for 14 Justice, representing HM Prisons and Probation Service, 15 instructed by the GLD. 16 Cicely Hayward is for the Secretary of State for the 17 home department, again instructed by the GLD. 18 Finally, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, 19 IOPC, is represented by Trudy Morgan, a senior lawyer of 20 the Office. 21 As you also know, this is the first pre-inquest 22 review hearing in the inquest into the death of 23 Sudesh Amman. Sudesh Amman was a 20-year-old man, who 24 had been convicted in 2018 of offences in relation to 25 terrorist offences and released from prison on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 hear from the other representatives. 2 Would that be convenient? 3 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you very much. 4 MR HOUGH: We anticipate that you will provide any 5 directions after this hearing either by way of a letter 6 from Fieldfisher or by way of a short ruling. 7 THE CORONER: That's my intention, yes. 8 MR HOUGH: First point, then, update on investigations, 9 which is from paragraph 11 of our submissions, page 7, 10 sir, of your bundle. 11 Following the attack, SO15, the counter-terrorism 12 command of the MPS, has been undertaking an extensive 13 investigation, taking statements from witnesses to the 14 attack and others with information about the background 15 to it. The SO15 team has collected relevant video 16 footage, documents and electronic devices. Our 17 submissions give the details and the volume of material. 18 In addition, sir, the IOPC has been carrying out 19 an independent investigation into the shooting of 20 Sudesh Amman and is expected to produce its final report 21 by the anniversary of the shooting, 2 February next 22 year. Your team, sir, has been in regular contact with 23 SO15 and the IOPC team over recent weeks with a view to 24 obtaining and reviewing the material from their 25 investigations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 23 January 2020. 2 On 2 February 2020, on Streatham High Road, he 3 attacked two members of the public with a knife. 4 Shortly afterwards he was confronted and fatally shot by 5 plainclothes police officers who are understood to have 6 had him under surveillance. The inquest into his death 7 was formally opened by Senior Coroner Harris on 8 26 February 2020. In recent months you, sir, have been 9 appointed to conduct the inquest as a nominated judge 10 under schedule 10 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. 11 The purpose of this hearing is to provide a brief 12 update on investigations to date, to resolve some 13 procedural issues which can be resolved at this stage 14 and propose a roadmap for the future conduct of the 15 case. 16 An agenda and set of submissions from us was 17 circulated on 7 December and others given the 18 opportunity to provide documents in response. In the 19 event, the MPS provided a document and some others 20 provided emails or letters. Any press attending this 21 hearing can obtain a copy of the agenda and our 22 submissions from Mr Suter. 23 I propose to deal with the matters in the order of 24 the agenda, summarising the main points in our document, 25 but by no means covering all of it, and that then you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 As I say, further detail on those investigations is 2 in our submissions. 3 Sir, the second item on the agenda is designation of 4 interested persons, which we deal with from paragraph 18 5 of our submissions, page 8 of your bundle. One of the 6 procedural issues we propose is dealt with today is the 7 designation of interested persons under section 47 of 8 the Coroners and Justice Act. As you appreciate, those 9 designated as interested persons have certain rights in 10 an inquest, including rights to receive disclosure and 11 examine witnesses. 12 The following, we submit, are entitled to 13 designation as interested persons for reasons given in 14 our submissions: Haleema Khan, the mother of 15 Sudesh Amman; the Metropolitan Police Commissioner; the 16 Secretary of State for justice; and the Director General 17 of the IOPC. But with your approval, your team has 18 recently confirmed those designations in writing on your 19 behalf. We are not at present aware of any other 20 applications for designation, although no doubt others 21 who are aware will tell us today. We are aware that the 22 Home Secretary is reserving her position for the present 23 and you have the letter written on her behalf. 24 THE CORONER: Yes. 25 MR HOUGH: The third item on the agenda is requirement for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 a jury. We would suggest that a procedural issue which 2 can be resolved shortly today is the requirement for 3 a jury in the Inquest, which we deal with from 4 paragraph 25 of the submissions, page 11 of your bundle. 5 Our submission, in short, is that a jury must be 6 summoned for this case because section 7(2)(b)(i) of 7 Coroners and Justice Act makes it mandatory to have 8 a jury in an inquest into a death, where that death 9 result from the act or omission of a police officer in 10 the execution of his or her duty. It doesn't matter 11 whether or not there is any basis for saying that the 12 officer did anything wrong. It is plainly the case here 13 that Sudesh Amman was killed by the acts of police 14 officers, and therefore a jury is required for 15 understandable public policy reasons. 16 THE CORONER: Mr Hough, unless anyone wants to say anything 17 about that will I make that order now? Is that the 18 sensible thing? 19 MR HOUGH: That's what we are proposing should happen today. 20 Either now or in a set of general directions at the end. 21 THE CORONER: All right. We might put in a compendious 22 document later. Thank you. 23 MR HOUGH: The fourth item on the agenda, and another short 24 procedural issue to address, is article 2 of the 25 European Convention of Human Rights, which we address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 resulting from deliberate action state agents require 2 this heightened investigation. 3 THE CORONER: Yes. 4 MR HOUGH: Once again, unless others suggest otherwise, that 5 is the direction we would suggest be put into the 6 compendious document. 7 THE CORONER: Yes. 8 MR HOUGH: The fifth item is preliminary submissions on 9 scope of inquiry, and paragraph 32 of our submissions, 10 page 12 of your bundle. 11 At this stage, before reviewing the statements and 12 other material, we don't propose to make definitive 13 submissions on the scope of inquiry of the Inquest. We 14 certainly don't invite you to make a ruling on that 15 topic today. 16 But for the benefit of those attending, we suggest 17 that the inquest will probably need to address broadly 18 the topics which are set out at paragraph 34 of our 19 document. 20 In short, first of all Sudesh Amman's behaviour and 21 movements on the days leading up to his death. In 22 particular the day of his death. 23 Secondly, the events from the time he left the 24 approved premises where he lived up to the time of his 25 death.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 from paragraph 28 of our submissions, page 11 of the 2 bundle. We suggest this is a short issue which can be 3 dealt with today. It concerns the engagement of the 4 procedural obligation under article 2, the right to 5 life. 6 As you are very well aware, sir, article 2 has been 7 held by the courts to require Convention states, 8 including the UK, to establish independent 9 investigations into certain categories of death and for 10 those investigations to meet certain criteria. In this 11 country, where that obligation is engaged in relation to 12 a death, it means that the inquest is required to make 13 determinations as to the circumstances of death rather 14 than only the immediate means of death. In particular, 15 it affects the principles governing the conclusions of 16 a coroner or jury. 17 In our submission, sir, you can say confidently now, 18 this obligation is engaged in this case, because there 19 is clear authority which we have set out in our 20 submissions that it is engaged in relation to anybody 21 deliberately killed by an agent of the state, such as 22 a police officer. As with the jury issue, this issue 23 does not turn on whether or not there is any basis for 24 criticising police conduct. It is simply the fact that 25 the Strasbourg courts have recognised that deaths</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Thirdly, the presence and arrival of the police 2 officers and the engagement in which Amman was killed. 3 Fourthly, the injuries Sudesh Amman sustained and 4 the medical cause of his death. 5 Fifthly, some evidence of his life and background, 6 including his offences and time in prison, to provide 7 context to the surveillance operation and the attack. 8 Sixthly, some evidence of the authorities' 9 management and monitoring of Sudesh Amman from his 10 release from prison to the time of his death. Again, 11 sir, to give context for the surveillance operation and 12 the attack. 13 Seventhly, the surveillance operation itself, 14 including information known and available to the 15 officers and others involved in the operation. 16 We should stress, sir, that although the inquest 17 should naturally focus on the events in which 18 Sudesh Amman came to die and the lawfulness of his 19 killing, which is of course the concern of the article 2 20 investigation, it will be necessary to consider at least 21 some of the background to his offending, his time in 22 prison and the authorities' management of him after 23 release. At a minimum, sir, these may be relevant to 24 the purpose and arrangements for the surveillance 25 operation. They may also be relevant to what was or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 should have been known to the officers who dealt with 2 him on the day.</p> <p>3 The sixth item on the agenda, the disclosure 4 process, from paragraph 35 of our skeleton at page 14 of 5 your bundle, over that section of the submissions we set 6 out proposals for the way in which relevant documents 7 will be obtained by the inquest team, reviewed for 8 relevance and disclosed to interested persons. Formal 9 requests for material have been made on your behalf of 10 the MPS, IOPC, Secretary of State for Justice and the 11 London Ambulance Service. Statements and other 12 documents will be reviewed for relevance by the team and 13 disclosed to interested persons by electronic means, 14 subject to their agreeing confidentiality undertakings 15 in a form which is now standard for large inquests.</p> <p>16 Given the circumstances in which Sudesh Amman was 17 shot and given his personal background it strikes us as 18 likely that there will be material which is security 19 sensitive in the Inquest documents. For example, in 20 both statements of officers and documents relating to 21 the police operation.</p> <p>22 We have set out in our submissions from paragraph 42 23 the approach we propose to take to such material. It 24 is, sir, the approach which has been adopted in other 25 similar cases. Although it is somewhat involved, its</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 measures such as screening. For obvious reasons such 2 applications may in particular be made where officers 3 work in covert counter-terrorism surveillance roles.</p> <p>4 The difficulty is that at this stage the MPS doesn't 5 know for which officers it needs to make applications, 6 and would be undesirable for the force to have to make 7 numerous entirely unnecessary applications.</p> <p>8 We have proposed at paragraph 51 of our document 9 a staged process, whereby your team can identify 10 officers who are likely to be called as witnesses and 11 those whose names may otherwise be relevant. The MPS 12 can then make such applications as it thinks justified 13 in respect of only those officers.</p> <p>14 Sir, if you are content with that process, and 15 subject to any objections from others, we would 16 respectfully suggest that you approve that today.</p> <p>17 The ninth item and the final item is time, venue and 18 logistics for the inquest, which we address from 19 paragraph 53 of our document, page 20 of the bundle.</p> <p>20 Based on our current understanding of the topics to 21 be investigated and the range of evidence, we would 22 estimate that the Inquest hearing should take between 23 two and three weeks, allowing for up to a few days of 24 jury deliberations. Questions of timing of the Inquest 25 start and venue are to an extent linked. There are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 objective is a simple one of ensuring that as much 2 relevant material is disclosed to interested persons and 3 usable in the Inquest as is consistent with proper 4 national security interest.</p> <p>5 Subject to any representations by others, that's all 6 I propose to say about the process. Further details can 7 be found in our document.</p> <p>8 THE CORONER: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR HOUGH: Seventhly, and very briefly, processes for 10 selection of witnesses and timetabling of the hearing, 11 from paragraph 47 of our document, page 18 of your 12 bundle.</p> <p>13 Once witness statements have been obtained and 14 disclosed, a draft list of witnesses for the hearing 15 will be circulated to interested persons. They will be 16 given the opportunity to make representations on the 17 witnesses to be called, and we would hope that most such 18 representations can be addressed by correspondence.</p> <p>19 Once the witness list has been finalised, the timetable 20 will be produced and circulated.</p> <p>21 The eighth item, anonymity and special measures 22 applications in paragraph 49 of our document, page 18 of 23 your bundle, we understand that the MPS intends making 24 applications for some officers to be anonymised and if 25 called to give evidence to be subject to special</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 several benefits, we suggest in having the inquest here 2 at the Royal Courts of Justice.</p> <p>3 If I can give those reasons now.</p> <p>4 First, it has courtrooms of suitable size with 5 nearby consultation rooms for interested persons.</p> <p>6 Second, the building can accommodate a jury in 7 an appropriate retiring room away from the participants.</p> <p>8 Third, it is easy in this building to arrange for 9 anonymised and vulnerable witnesses to enter and leave 10 of the building by appropriate private routes.</p> <p>11 Fourth, the use of this building will substantially 12 reduce the cost of the inquest hearing.</p> <p>13 Sir, that is a significant factor because the 14 funding authorities, funding the Inner South London 15 Coroner area, serve some of the poorest areas in South 16 London and their funds are at a premium.</p> <p>17 Fifthly, the location of the building is as we 18 understand it convenient for most participants, and it 19 is, of course, on excellent transport links.</p> <p>20 Sixthly, if we were to look for other courts with 21 comparable facilities, worth bearing in mind that other 22 courts with good facilities, especially criminal courts, 23 are in a position where space is at a premium and I know 24 you are aware of that, sir.</p> <p>25 Our understanding is that it is only practicable to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 secure a court in this building during the summer
2 vacation and we understand that the court can be set
3 aside for the necessary period in August 2021. In our
4 view, it should be possible to prepare this case for
5 a hearing commencing at the start of August 2021, and we
6 respectfully propose that the case be listed to start
7 then, with the estimate of two to three weeks.
8 Finally, sir. Two further points about logistics
9 for the final hearing.
10 First, the practicalities of how many people can be
11 accommodated in court and how many live links can and
12 should be established will of course depend on the state
13 of the pandemic in the summer and Government guidance at
14 that time.
15 Secondly, we would ask any interested person who is
16 aware of particular requirements for the hearing to tell
17 Mr Suter's team as soon as possible. An example might
18 be a request for a witness to give evidence by videolink
19 or a proposal that a live link be set up to an external
20 location. These things can always be better arranged
21 with good notice.
22 Sir, that is all I propose to say for now, but I may
23 respond to any points made by others from whom you will
24 now hear.
25 May I assist with anything further now?

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1 THE CORONER: No, I am very grateful to you, Mr Hough.
2 What I think we will do is if we go round the room,
3 if anyone speaking would just be kind enough -- because
4 it is difficult for me to take it all in at this
5 distance -- if they could just say who they are and who
6 they are for.
7 Mr Menon, though, I was proposing to start with you,
8 if that is convenient?
9 MR MENON: Yes, sir. Can you hear me?
10 THE CORONER: I can, good morning.
11 MR MENON: Good morning.
12 Having heard Mr Hough, the only issue on which we
13 would seek to make representations is the date of the
14 eventual inquest. We have no observations to make on
15 any of the other matters. We will, I anticipate, have
16 submissions to make in due course on the issue of scope,
17 but in the absence of any disclosure it seems premature
18 to say anything on that issue today.
19 That's the only issue we would wish to be heard on.
20 I am happy to explain our position now or to do it in
21 due course.
22 THE CORONER: By all means. Do you want to just say now?
23 MR MENON: Sir, the principal issue is, I am afraid, the
24 convenience of counsel. But before I get to that, can
25 I say this: as far as the timetable is concerned, as we

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1 understand it, the IOPC is due to complete its report in
2 February of next year, and disclosure, I anticipate,
3 will commence at least around that time or soon
4 thereafter.
5 There are bound to be issues arising as a result of
6 that that may, in any event, make an August date rather
7 early. But I accept that it is difficult to say
8 anything with any certainty about that now.
9 As far as the convenience of myself and Jude Bunting
10 of counsel, who I lead in this matter, we both accept
11 that these are uncertain times and quite frankly it is
12 impossible to say where we are going to be in terms of
13 the pandemic and make definitive representations as far
14 as availability in August, but as you know, sir, August
15 is never the best of times to commence a three-week
16 hearing. Certainly, so far as Mr Bunting is concerned,
17 he will almost certainly be unavailable if that date
18 remains the date.
19 My position is more flexible. I don't think I can
20 definitively say that I will have to return the brief if
21 the August date remains, but I anticipate that it will
22 be a difficult date for me for both professional and
23 personal reasons, which I would rather not elaborate on
24 today --
25 THE CORONER: I understand. You could perhaps put any more

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1 detail in writing. But I understand the traditional
2 difficulty about August. It is just that there are
3 a number of factors pointing in the other direction
4 here, namely the availability of the Royal Courts of
5 Justice. I have to say my own availability in the sense
6 that it is the vacation and so I am not required to be
7 doing anything else.
8 MR MENON: Yes.
9 THE CORONER: But I have your position. If there is
10 anything that you want to put in writing, rather than go
11 through all that, then, obviously, I will take account
12 of that.
13 MR MENON: I will definitely do that. I entirely understand
14 that clearly this has to be fixed around your diary and
15 on the availability of a courtroom in the Royal Courts
16 of Justice. I entirely understand that that almost
17 certainly has to take precedence. If there is any room
18 to manoeuvre -- and I appreciate that at present it
19 doesn't look like there is -- we would welcome a date
20 commencing any Monday from 25 October onwards. But if
21 that is not possible, then we will make the necessary
22 arrangements in the New Year.
23 THE CORONER: All right.
24 Mr Menon, I'm very grateful to you. You have put
25 that very clearly. What I will just do is I will listen

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<p>1 to everybody else and then perhaps Mr Hough may suggest 2 a timetable for anything in writing at the end of it. 3 It. But I am very happy to do that, thank you very 4 much. 5 MR MENON: Thank you. 6 THE CORONER: Who is next? 7 MR SHELDON: I think the suggestion is I should go next, 8 Neil Sheldon for the Metropolitan Police. I hope you 9 can see me. 10 THE CORONER: I can, I can see you and hear you. 11 MR SHELDON: Sir, I can be very brief. 12 As you have seen from our written submissions, we 13 find ourselves in entire agreement with Counsel to the 14 Inquest in respect of both the substantive issues before 15 you -- jury, article 2 and so on -- and also the 16 procedure that has been proposed for managing sensitive 17 material and disclosure generally. 18 Can I just update you on two procedural matters? 19 The first relating to disclosure. You will have 20 seen from a letter of 30 November sent to the 21 Metropolitan Police by Mr Suter that we have been given 22 an extensive disclosure job to be getting on with -- 23 THE CORONER: Yes. 24 MR SHELDON: -- and it has been made clear to us that we 25 should provide your team with the entirety of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 sensibly be managed, so that at least a number of 2 tranches of material will be with your team by the 3 beginning of the year. 4 THE CORONER: Yes. 5 MR SHELDON: I hope that disclosure onwards to interested 6 persons can then take place shortly thereafter. 7 The other procedural matter is that you have been 8 invited at paragraph 51 of the submissions of your 9 counsel to set a deadline by which the 10 Metropolitan Police should provide the Inquest with 11 a list of those individuals for whom it may wish to seek 12 special measures, including anonymity. My question is 13 that the deadline for that should be the end of January. 14 The reason for that request, and the reason we can't -- 15 subject to your direction of course -- at the moment do 16 it any earlier than that is that there are a significant 17 number of people involved and we need to speak to them 18 to explain to them what is being done to their behalf, 19 what the implications of it are and to allay some 20 understandable concerns that may be felt on their 21 behalf. 22 Because we have quite rightly been encouraged to 23 cast the net widely in the first instance, before it 24 funnels down to those individuals who we will actually 25 need to make applications for, there is quite</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 material we hold in relation to the 2017 offending, the 2 2018 offending, the period in custody and everything 3 that took place after release. A team has been set up 4 in SO15 and is hard at work assembling that material. 5 It may not be possible -- I make no bones about it 6 (Audio interruption). 7 THE CORONER: I have lost you on the sound, Mr Sheldon, 8 after: 9 "It may not be possible ..." 10 No, still not getting you. 11 MR SHELDON: Can you hear me now? 12 THE CORONER: Yes, I can. I can. 13 I heard, "Can you hear me now", and Mr Sheldon you 14 were just going to tell me what might not be possible? 15 MR SHELDON: Yes. I was going to tell you, sir, that it 16 might not be possible to meet the entirety of the 17 disclosure request in full by the relatively challenging 18 deadline of 11 January, which we have been given. 19 Particularly in relation not just to disclosure but also 20 to the compilation of a number of detailed reports that 21 have been requested. 22 What we have done is divide the work into a number 23 of tranches, and the proposal is that we have 24 a discussion with Counsel to the Inquest and your 25 Solicitor to the Inquest to identify how that might most</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 a significant number of people involved and leave 2 arrangements and so on make it logistically challenging. 3 Could I respectfully request that if you do accede to 4 the request to issue a deadline it is the end of 5 January. 6 THE CORONER: Understood, thank you. 7 Anything else now, or is that it? 8 MR SHELDON: I think that is it, thank you very much. 9 THE CORONER: All right. I am very grateful to you. 10 Thank you. 11 Yes. 12 MR RAWAT: Good morning, sir, I hope you can hear me. 13 I can. 14 THE CORONER: I can. 15 MR RAWAT: I am Bilal Rawat, here on behalf of Secretary of 16 State for Justice, but in effect representing the two 17 combined agencies of the National Probation Service and 18 the Prison Service. 19 Sir, I can keep my comments very brief. We are in 20 agreement with the course proposed by Counsel to the 21 Inquest. So I don't think there is any benefit served 22 in my sort of going over that ground again. 23 The only two observations I would make at this point 24 are, first, in relation to the disclosure exercise. We 25 too have received a letter from your solicitor and we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

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<p>1 are in the process of preparing our response to that.</p> <p>2 At the moment we don't anticipate any difficulty with</p> <p>3 responding by the date given, should any difficulty</p> <p>4 arise, we will of course communicate immediately with</p> <p>5 your team to find a way forward. But certainly it will</p> <p>6 not be the case that we won't make any disclosure by the</p> <p>7 due date.</p> <p>8 The second comment I would make is more by way of</p> <p>9 observation. I have heard Mr Menon's explanation of</p> <p>10 difficulties with the potential date that is anticipated</p> <p>11 for the Inquest. Another factor that you may wish to</p> <p>12 consider in due course will of course be the witness</p> <p>13 availability. I anticipate that there may be</p> <p>14 a significant number of witnesses called from different</p> <p>15 agencies. August is never a good time for anybody, but</p> <p>16 at the same time we have spoken to those who we think</p> <p>17 may be potential witnesses and there is certainly</p> <p>18 a feeling amongst that cohort of a desire to get to and</p> <p>19 assist the Inquest and have the Inquest heard and out of</p> <p>20 the way. That may be a factor that you may wish to</p> <p>21 balance in due course.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p>23 MR RAWAT: Other than that, is there any other matter on</p> <p>24 which I can assist?</p> <p>25 THE CORONER: No, no. Thank you very much indeed. I am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 MS MORGAN: Thank you.</p> <p>2 Good morning, sir. I can provide a short update on</p> <p>3 the status of our investigation if that would assist,</p> <p>4 but we have no other comments to make on the matters</p> <p>5 raised by your Counsel to the Inquest this morning.</p> <p>6 In relation to our investigation, the material</p> <p>7 relating to the events on 2 February 2020 has been</p> <p>8 obtained and reviewed. We are at the present confident</p> <p>9 that we should be able to complete our report into the</p> <p>10 actions on that day by the date</p> <p>11 indicated: 2 February 2021.</p> <p>12 We are awaiting some further material relating to</p> <p>13 events prior to 2 February 2020, and then we will be in</p> <p>14 a better position to confirm the timetable for the</p> <p>15 report into those matters once that material has been</p> <p>16 obtained and reviewed, and we will of course keep your</p> <p>17 counsel and solicitor updated in our progress on that.</p> <p>18 Unless there is anything further I can assist you</p> <p>19 with this morning, sir?</p> <p>20 THE CORONER: No, that is very helpful, thank you very much.</p> <p>21 Mr Hough?</p> <p>22 MR HOUGH: I think that is everybody.</p> <p>23 If I could just deal with the points which have been</p> <p>24 made, dealing with them in the order in which counsel</p> <p>25 made them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 grateful.</p> <p>2 One of the reasons, really, for wanting to get this</p> <p>3 hearing on as soon as possible was just so we can</p> <p>4 consider the date and once we have set it, then</p> <p>5 everybody can make their arrangements around it. But</p> <p>6 the points you make I have very much in mind, and I am</p> <p>7 grateful to you, thank you.</p> <p>8 Yes?</p> <p>9 MS HAYWARD: Sir, I am Cicely Hayward and I represent the</p> <p>10 Home Secretary.</p> <p>11 Sir, as your counsel indicated, the Home Secretary</p> <p>12 does not presently seek IP status. That view has been</p> <p>13 reached on the basis of the limited information we have</p> <p>14 reviewed to date and our understanding of provisional</p> <p>15 scope, but we will, of course, keep that under review</p> <p>16 and we propose to really apply our minds to that again</p> <p>17 when the reports that have been indicated as outstanding</p> <p>18 are completed.</p> <p>19 Unless I can assist any further, we have nothing to</p> <p>20 add. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>21 THE CORONER: No, thank you very much.</p> <p>22 MR HOUGH: Sir, I don't see it anybody else rising. I am</p> <p>23 aware that the IOPC is prepared by Trudy Morgan, who is</p> <p>24 appearing by videolink, but I don't know whether</p> <p>25 Ms Morgan has any representations to make?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 First of all, Mr Menon raised a point about the</p> <p>2 timing of the Inquest.</p> <p>3 It will be for you to balance the considerations</p> <p>4 which I drew attention to against the perfectly proper</p> <p>5 professional concerns raised by Mr Menon.</p> <p>6 Sir, I would hope that it will be possible for him</p> <p>7 and his team to put in any letter or email giving</p> <p>8 further explanation early next week, so that you can get</p> <p>9 on with making a decision on this issue and giving the</p> <p>10 parties as much notice of your decision as possible.</p> <p>11 THE CORONER: Mr Menon, I'll just deal with these as we go.</p> <p>12 Could you do that by, say -- I just don't know how</p> <p>13 much -- could you do it by midday on the 22nd, Tuesday</p> <p>14 at midday, is that all right?</p> <p>15 MR MENON: Yes, we can do that.</p> <p>16 THE CORONER: Good.</p> <p>17 Mr Hough, I hope that deals with that.</p> <p>18 MR HOUGH: Sir, I should also say, in relation to one point</p> <p>19 that Mr Menon made about the timing of disclosure: we</p> <p>20 are hoping to get on with the disclosure exercise from</p> <p>21 February, and preferably early in February. We</p> <p>22 certainly hope that there will be plenty of time to</p> <p>23 consider important material before an August start date,</p> <p>24 if that is one that you decide upon.</p> <p>25 In relation to the submissions of Mr Sheldon. Sir,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

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1 we quite understand that there may be room for
2 discussion about the precise timing of disclosure in
3 tranches. The important thing is that we start getting
4 material in mid-January with a view to beginning the
5 disclosure exercise in February.

6 That brings me onto the point which Mr Sheldon made
7 in relation to the paragraph 51 deadline concerning the
8 list of officers for whom anonymity applications may be
9 made.

10 We don't have difficulty with the deadline being the
11 end of January 2021, subject to this one point. It
12 would be helpful if, when material starts to be
13 disclosed to us early in January, that the names of
14 those officers for whom applications may be made are
15 ciphered out, so that we don't have a situation whereby
16 there is a delay after the end of January before we can
17 start disclosing material as a result of that ciphering
18 exercise.

19 I don't know whether Mr Sheldon can enlighten us on
20 whether that is possible or whether additional time is
21 needed for that.

22 MR SHELDON: Thank you, Mr Hough.

23 Sir, that is certainly possible and we will do that.

24 I can also say that we envisage that for at least
25 some of the tranches of disclosure that we have

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1 THE CORONER: No. All right, well, I'm very grateful to you
2 all for your help. Thank you very much indeed.

3 MR HOUGH: Thank you, sir.

4 THE CORONER: All right, thank you.
5 (10.08 am)

6 (The hearing concluded)

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1 identified -- particularly tranches relating to 2017 and
2 2018 offending -- this is going to be less of a pressing
3 issue. But we will provide, with whatever disclosure we
4 provide, the list of names that Mr Hough identifies.

5 THE CORONER: That's very helpful, thank you.

6 MR HOUGH: Sir, I don't think I need to say anything
7 specific in response to Mr Rawat's submissions, unless
8 you would like me to?

9 THE CORONER: No, thank you.

10 MR HOUGH: Or, indeed, in relation to any other matter.
11 Again, unless you could be assisted?

12 THE CORONER: No.

13 Mr Hough, I think the thing to do is this. After
14 you have had any discussions with others after the
15 hearing has finished in a moment, and after Mr Menon's
16 documents have been received, then I think what I will
17 do is issue, as you put it, a compendious set of
18 directions then. Is that the best thing?

19 MR HOUGH: Yes, sir. We will ensure that is done either by
20 way of a letter from Mr Suter's team or in the form of
21 a short ruling from you, if you prefer, sir.

22 THE CORONER: All right.

23 Good. So nothing else?

24 MR HOUGH: Nothing from me, and I don't see any others
25 leaping to their feet.

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