

Appendix

Time line of assistance provided to facilitate access to materials

- 23 July 2023 Contact with Head of Offender Management Services.
- Prison unable to provide Mr Paterson with access to a prison computer. Agreement negotiated that documents would be sent electronically, printed off and then stored in a locked cupboard in order that Mr Paterson can be given access to them in an interview room where he can read them and do his preparation.
- 31 July 2023 Electronic disclosure via database made of Module 1 bundles for 38 of the opened Inquests
- 17 August 2023 Mr Paterson raises concerns via solicitors that the time permitted for access to printed material would conflict with his working hours and therefore result in loss of wages. Demand made that either HMC compensate for loss of earnings or arrangements made with the prison for access to the reading material outside of working hours.
- Concerns raised by the prison about cost of printing the voluminous material for the inquests.
- 24 August 2023 HMC proposes to fund the provision of a laptop / tablet (without internet access etc) to enable the provision of memory sticks instead of hard copy disclosure from which Mr Paterson could access the necessary material.
- Explained to the prison that it was important so far as achievable within the security environment that Mr Paterson be permitted to view the material and prepare in his own time.
- 5 - 19 September
2023 Negotiations with both Prison and solicitors supporting Mr Paterson regarding the type of laptop and means of access.
- 21 September

- 2023 Security compliant laptop provided to Prison for Mr Paterson's use preloaded with disclosure for each of the 38 inquests opened at that stage.
- 29 September 2023 Prison provided Mr Paterson with laptop in his cell enabling review of the first 38 inquest bundles.
- 25 October 2023 Further disclosure of material via USB memory stick shared with the Prison.
- 2 November 2023 Prison removed laptop from Mr Paterson's cell citing security policies. From this date, with a limited exception later that month in relation finalising his notes for the initial 38 bundles and delivery of the same to solicitors, Mr Paterson has been without access to the laptop and has been unable to review any of the electronic material delivered to the Prison.
- 21 November 2023 Arrangements made for Mr Paterson's supervised access to the laptop during the day and for Mr Paterson to receive remuneration at education rates of pay for the time incurred.
- 19 January 2024 Solicitors assisting indicated that Mr Paterson had requested access to the laptop last week but that he remained without access. Mr Paterson was making several requests a week for access to the laptop which were all refused by the Prison. Solicitors assisting made a request to the Prison that Mr Paterson be allowed to keep the laptop in his cell, as was the case previously.
- 23 January 2024 HMC expresses to the prison concerns that Mr Paterson is being denied access to the laptop. HMC emphasises the importance of Mr Paterson being allowed access to the laptop and material on it so he can prepare for the Inquests and that Mr Paterson has a legal right to prepare for them and to participate.
- 20 February 2024 Mr Paterson via solicitors assisting give notice that it is Mr Paterson intention not to attend the PIRH on 6 March 2024 and

written submissions will be provided. HMC directs submissions are provided by 26 February 2024.

- 26 February 2024 Mr Paterson submissions which include that the limited funding for legal representation is now exhausted, acknowledgement of HMC's assistance with ensuring Mr Paterson has access to disclosure and communication and that significant issues remain, only occasional and limited access to the disclosed materials and his ability to communicate with his lawyers is highly restricted.
- 23 March 2024 Further disclosure provided via USB memory stick.
- 10 June 2024 Solicitors assisting Mr Paterson inform HMC and the prison that Mr Paterson has not been provided access to the laptop for some months despite numerous requests. The understood reason is because of insufficient staffing to permit supervised access. The only workable solution is for Mr Paterson to have the laptop in his cell.
- 11 June 2024 Further disclosure provided via USB memory stick.
- 14 June 2024 PIRH at which the issue of access to the material was the main topic of discussion / submission. At that hearing it was proposed that if Mr Paterson moved to a particular wing with lockable cells then he would have full access to the material necessary for him to prepare at any time rather than limited to during the day.
- 20 June 2024 Thereafter Mr Paterson declined to move to that wing citing the violent and chaotic conditions on that wing. Mr Paterson further noted that he was already in a lockable cell in which he had previously been able to use the laptop without incident. Mr Paterson proposed being provided with the laptop in his current cell as well as alternative options including for the laptop to be delivered to his cell after lockdown in an evening and collected first thing in a morning or moving to another area of the prison that would be more suitable.

The Prison declined all of those proposals and maintained its position that Mr Paterson would only be provided with the laptop if he moved to the wing specified by them. The Prison advised there was no operational reason to justify a forced move.

Mr Paterson indicated if he is not able to prepare he will not participate in the Inquests.

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| 25 July 2024 | Further disclosure made by USB memory stick |
| 1 August 2024 | Further disclosure made by USB memory stick |
| 18 August 2024 | Decision made following request by prison to pause sending further memory sticks until such time as Mr Paterson changes his mind about relocation at which point further memory sticks can be shared. |
| 2 September 2024 | Solicitors assisting Mr Paterson reported recent serious violent incidents on the wing to which the Prison required Mr Paterson to move in order to access the laptop. |
| 19 September 2024 | At the request of the Coroner, CTI (Jonathan Jones KC, Scott Mathewson & Briony Ballard) have MS Teams conferences with BCL (Mr McNeill) and Prison (Wayne Robinson - Head of Security). The purpose was to explore and facilitate Mr Paterson having access to documentation relating to the forthcoming Inquests. Outcome - Mr Paterson will be provided with limited documentation in physical files and the prison is providing facilities to keep those documents secure. |