

Appendix 1: List of Suggested Interviewees

1. HH Administrator, Marc Holland (WT)
2. Ascension Island Council – 7 Councillors – worth meeting these individually, one is a bar owner, another is married to one, one is the Chair of the School Governing Body (WT)
3. [REDACTED]
4. Ascension Island Child Safeguarding Board (WT)
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. Focus Group of 6-8 staff at Hospital (incl nurse resp for child safeguarding) (W2)
12. [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. Focus group with Two Boats school children with teacher supervision: mix of years 10-11 (SW)
16. Focus Group of parents? [REDACTED]
17. Voluntary Organisation representatives
Brownies, [REDACTED] Rainbows; [REDACTED] Saturday club; [REDACTED] Beavers & [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Music Centre, [REDACTED] Scout Leader; [REDACTED] Lay Advocate, Scout Leader & other lay advocates (WT)
18. [REDACTED] (SW)
19. [REDACTED] (W2)
20. [REDACTED] + other PCs (either individually or female PCs together) (W2)
21. [REDACTED], St Mary's Church (W2)

Key:

WT - whole enquiry team (6)

SW - Sasha Wass's half of team (8)

W2 - the other half of the visiting team (not including SW) (7)

Despite splitting up the enquiry team, Sasha Wass still needs to find time to take part in 14 meetings and the other half of her team in 13. But we have only allocated 10 3/4 hours for meetings on 12-13 March so Ms Wass will need to use either Sat 14 March or Good Friday for additional meetings.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2015 11:42
To: sasha.wass@fco.gov.uk; Mark Waring
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: New St Helena documents

(B)

Importance: High
Security Label: OFFICIAL

Dear Sasha

You will recall late last year we gave you documents specifically related to child safeguarding in St Helena. Most of these were on previous police investigations into alleged child abuse and corruption within SHG. Earlier this year, in response to allegations made by John Hemming MP that the FCO was withholding a document that amounted to a "smoking gun" that proved the FCO knew about, and was concealing child abuse in St Helena, we shared additional papers with you.

Recently, the Directorate's Research Analyst found documents belonging to previous OTD Research Analysts that we did not know existed. This is because the Research Analysts have their own document management systems. Subsequently, we have unearthed additional reading material the Inquiry team may welcome. We are sending these papers to your Chambers today. Furthermore, when reading these papers, we discovered variations for the spelling of "St Helena". It appears naming conventions for the territory have evolved over time and because of this, we are undertaking further searches for documents using different spellings for "St Helena". We will share any documents we find with you immediately.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Child Safeguarding & Domestic Violence Policy Officer | Child Safeguarding Unit | Overseas Territories Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office
☒ OAB G/103 | ☒ Email: [REDACTED] | ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] | ☎ BB: [REDACTED] | 🌐 URL: www.gov.uk/fco | Visit our blogs at <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk>

[Redacted]

From: Sasha Wass [
Sent: 16 November 2014 12:53
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Projected hours for inquiry

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your e mail regarding the proposed announcement date, details of the travel and request for a projected estimate of hours preparation required by me.

As far as the hours are concerned, it is not possible to give a definitive answer to this because it will depend on where the investigation goes. Additionally, I will need to spend some time getting to grips with the legal and constitutional relationships on the island and at the FCO and how this plays into the overall inquiry. However, I have spent some time going through in as much detail as I can in order to assist you in your budgetary projections. I have summarised this in the attached table. As you will see, I have allowed 100 hours for the preliminary reading, some of which I have already done. Further than that, I have added six other categories of tasks to be completed before the field trip in March. It is difficult to be precise but I have done my best to give a realistic estimate.

1	Reading all material provided by FCO to date.	100 hours
2	Plan strategy, shape of inquiry, assess areas for further investigation and identification of panelists.	24 hours
3	Interviewing prospective members of the panel.	12-16 hours
4	Preparing précis of material for panel members.	8 -12 hours
5	Interviewing witnesses in UK.	16-24 hours
6	Drafting summary to findings of interviews.	8-12 hours
7	Preparation of strategy for trip including discussion with panel.	8 -12 hours
8	Hours work on field trip to St Helena between 11th March and 4 th April.	125-35 hours

As far as the trip itself is concerned, I have attempted to work out on a daily basis what I hope to achieve. In an ideal world this will obviate the need for a second visit.

Dealing with the practicalities of the trip, I should be grateful if you would let me know the procedure for getting my [REDACTED] and the other panel members the requisite documentation: travel/medical insurance; work permits; driving licences etc. I am sure you are familiar with the paperwork details that have to be sorted out. I assume that this is something that [REDACTED] will be able to organise.

I would appreciate if the costs of my [REDACTED] travel expenses can be invoiced to me so that he can pay for them in advance of the trip. Have you been able to make any arrangements for accommodation and transport on the island? I should be grateful to know what these are.

It would be helpful to have an early meeting one evening with the inquiry administrator. Perhaps we can set this up after the announcement?

Regarding the press statements, perhaps you could let me know how you wish to handle this? I am currently working in Kingston.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

6KBW
COLLEGE HILL

The Chambers of David Fisher QC and David Perry QC
21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

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(A)

From: Sasha Wass [redacted]
Sent: 18 November 2014 20:51
To: [redacted] (Sensitive)
Subject: RE: St Helena

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e mail.

As far as the funding for the panel is concerned, the only option I consider appropriate is for the panel members to be remunerated by the FCO directly. [Your option 2]. I am not in a position to handle fees and all that entails. Additionally, could you let me know what is to be done about their expenses? If one or any of them is not London based, I want to be able to assure them that their travelling costs will be covered. Can they bill monthly during the course of the enquiry? Perhaps you could let me have sight of a proposed contract for the panel members so I can advise them of these terms before they are appointed?

In addition to the work conducted in the UK, the panel members will want to know about accommodation on St Helena and whether we will be provided with the use of a car in order to visit schools etc? I imagined that [redacted] would be able to deal with the practical arrangements.

I look forward to receiving the proposed contract for my engagement tomorrow. I would ask that you give me time to consider it with care before signing it. If I receive it tomorrow, I will certainly hope to get it to you by Friday.

Meanwhile, I am drafting something to put forward to the press and [as I said], I would appreciate 48 hours notice before the announcement is made. If you would find it helpful to speak, I can call you tomorrow. Thursday is impossible for me, so if tomorrow is not convenient, it will have to be Friday.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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(18)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: St Helena

Hi Sasha

I am just waiting for sign off from the Foreign Secretary and then I will let you know straight away. On the other panel members - there are two ways of doing this:

1. We will send you a contract for you to sign tomorrow morning - it will outline all the terms and conditions that [REDACTED] and I previously discussed with you. This could include that you will contract the other panel members and you would add their fees onto your bill which we would pay. This removes any inference of FCO interference in the people selected and paid.

Or

2. We set up individual contracts for the people you select as experts. We agree an hourly rate with them. We pay them. This has the risk of not standing up as well to public scrutiny.

I would be very grateful for your thoughts.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Deputy Head of the Falklands and Southern Oceans Dept Room 2/133 OAB

T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sasha Wass [mailto:_____]_____
Sent: 18 November 2014 10:57
To: [REDACTED] (Sensitive)
Subject: St Helena

(12)

Hi

I ought to have asked what the remuneration arrangements will be for other panel members? They are likely to ask.

Would you be kind enough to give me 48 hours notice before the announcement do that I can prepare any press response?

Many thanks.

Sasha

Sent from my iPad

The Chambers of David Fisher QC and David Perry QC, 6KBW College Hill

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21

[Redacted]

From: Sasha Wass
Sent: 25 January 2015 11:46
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: St Helena Inquiry

Dear [Redacted]

See below the e mail I have just sent to [Redacted] you will see that it was [Redacted] who actually refused by request. May I ask that any request made by the FCO is addressed to [Redacted], or to the Commissioner [Redacted] you will appreciate that time is of the essence so I would appreciate an update as soon as possible.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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From: Sasha Wass
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2015 11:42 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Dear [Redacted]

I have now been contacted by [Redacted] indicating that he is unable to release either [Redacted] or [Redacted] to the St Helena Inquiry as their time needs to be prioritised towards the safety and security of London. Of course, I entirely respect this decision.

It is for this reason, I am amending my request in respect of [Redacted] alone. I understand that [Redacted] is due to retire in September and is owed annual leave which, if taken, would allow him to be absent from MPS duties between the 11th March and the 4th April, that is to say, over the period of the visit to St Helena. My request is that he is allowed to accompany the panel to St Helena over that period. I would ensure that none of his other duties are disrupted. Any involvement he might have after the 4th of April but before retirement would not take place during his working day. In fact, I would aim that his involvement in the Inquiry was largely limited to work on St Helena and very little else. I am in the process of engaging other officers to assist the enquiry, so I would be able to rely on their input rather than distract [Redacted] from his duties.

I would very much like for the MPS to be represented in this important Inquiry and hope that this amended request, which deals with the [Redacted] position, would allow this to happen.

I would be grateful if you could escalate this request to the [Redacted] as he has not provided a personal e mail address in his correspondence.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Sasha,

Our Assistant Commissioner has yet to speak with the Commissioner re this, will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

[REDACTED]
SPECIALIST CRIME INVESTIGATIONS
ROOM 1104 NEW SCOTLAND YARD
10 BROADWAY LONDON SW1H 0BG
[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass
Sent: 12 January 2015 09:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for letting me know the position regarding [REDACTED] Would you be kind enough to let me have a definitive answer about [REDACTED] this week? As you will appreciate, I am very keen to get the highest calibre of police officer involved in this inquiry which is likely to attract considerable publicity when it reports.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

6KBW
COLLEGE HILL

The Chambers of David Perry QC and Simon Denison QC

21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 6:23 PM
To: Sasha Wass

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Hi Sasha,

Many thanks for the email and really good to hear from you. The team have spoken very highly of your commitment in support of their work. This matter is currently under consideration by our management board as we currently are facing some significant staffing challenges in this area and [REDACTED] has recently been selected to join our [REDACTED] d in the near future, they too face some complex challenges at present.

I'll get back to you as soon as I know more but would urge you to consider all available options. Happy to discuss these further if you wish.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
**SPECIALIST CRIME INVESTIGATIONS
ROOM 1104 NEW SCOTLAND YARD
10 BROADWAY LONDON SW1H 0BG**
[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2015 21:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: St Helena Inquiry

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see below a copy of an e mail I have written to [REDACTED] which I hope is self explanatory.

My appointment to the inquiry occurred while you were on secondment and I apologise if I have inadvertently breached protocol by approaching [REDACTED] directly. However, the Foreign Secretary has requested that the inquiry reports back in a relatively short time frame.

A further pressure is created by the inaccessibility of the island of St Helena and the FCO have pre booked flights and passages to and from the island between the 11th March and the 4th April.

I hope you will look favourably upon my request. I believe that the inquiry will be well served by having two such eminent officers from the Metropolitan police on the panel.

As you will see below, I have also written to the [REDACTED]

Your sincerely,
Sasha Wass QC

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been asked by the Foreign Secretary to head an inquiry into corruption and child abuse on the Island of St Helena. This will be a discrete inquiry looking at how previous allegations originally made by a serving police officer on St Helena were handled by the local police force and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I would very much like to be able to appoint two officers from the Metropolitan Police Service on the panel which will investigate and report back to the Foreign Secretary in late summer.

You may be aware that I worked with officers from [REDACTED] in the prosecution of Rolf Harris. Over the past thirty years, I have been engaged in numerous trials involving rape and child abuse. During the course of the Harris trial, I had the privilege of working with one of the most professional teams I have encountered in cases of this nature. I have yet to meet any officers whose abilities, dedication, commitment and understanding surpassed those of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Naturally, when I was appointed to the St Helena inquiry, I immediately considered the possibility of appointing those officers to the panel.

The inquiry requires the services of two police officers who are fully cognisant with current investigatory practices, who have the discretion, skill and experience to handle such a highly sensitive investigation. They will be required to look into a small number of case files, interview serving St Helenian police officers and advise me on the efficacy of the systems and procedures practiced on the island by the local police force.

A field trip to the island has been scheduled by the FCO between the 11th March and the 4th April. Additionally, the appointment would require a commitment of roughly half a day a week for the next six months. It is proposed that panel members will be remunerated by the FCO on an hourly basis for preparation and a daily rate for travelling time.

Because the FCO is also a target of the inquiry, they have taken the unusual step of asking me to select and appoint panel members myself, hence my direct approach to you.

Because the FCO is looking for a speedy investigation, I have taken the liberty of discussing the possible appointment with the two officers themselves. I have of course written to the [REDACTED] to advise him of this request. I will also be informing [REDACTED].

I should be grateful if you look upon this request favourably. If you wish, I would be delighted to discuss this further with you. My mobile number is [REDACTED].

Your sincerely,

Sasha Wass QC

6KBW
COLLEGE HILL

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21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911

www.6kbw.com

From: Sasha Wass [redacted]
Sent: 21 January 2015 16:00
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Sorry, not an attachment. The e mail is immediately below my e mail to you.
S

6KBW
COLLEGE HILL

The Chambers of David Perry QC and Simon Denison QC
21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Sasha

When I open the attachments, I only get the first part of your office address.

Regards,

[redacted]
Safeguarding & Domestic Violence Policy Officer
Falklands & Southern Oceans Department | Overseas Territories Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office
☑ OAB 2/133 | ☑ Email [redacted] | ☑ BB [redacted] | ☑ URL: www.gov.uk/fco | Visit our
blogs at <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk>

From: Sasha Wass [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 20 January 2015 19:23
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: St Helena Inquiry

22

Dear [redacted]

I attach a refusal that I have just received from [redacted]. I wonder if there is any influence that the FCO can use in order to release [redacted] to the inquiry panel? If this might be possible then the sooner we act the better.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

6KBW COLLEGE HILL

The Chambers of David Perry QC and Simon Denison QC
21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 6:28 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]@a.uk
Subject: Re: St Helena Inquiry

Sasha,

I'm so sorry for the delay in getting back to you however I have just been notified that sadly, on this occasion, we will not be able to release any of our serving officers to you for a whole host of operational reasons. I have however just had a conversation with [REDACTED] about use of Reed Employment agency staff who have been working with us and would be more than capable of providing the expert investigative advice you are looking for. I am more than happy for him to assist you in identifying suitable individuals almost as good as him for your consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On 12 Jan 2015, at 09:06, Sasha Wass <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for letting me know the position regarding [REDACTED]. Would you be kind enough to let me have a definitive answer about [REDACTED] this week? As you will appreciate, I am very keen to get the highest calibre of police officer involved in this inquiry which is likely to attract considerable publicity when it reports.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

<imagecdd4c3.GIF>

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Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 6:23 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc:
Subject: RE: St Helena Inquiry

Hi Sasha,

Many thanks for the email and really good to hear from you. The team have spoken very highly of your commitment in support of their work. This matter is currently under consideration by our management board as we currently are facing some significant staffing challenges in this area and [REDACTED] has recently been selected to join our [REDACTED] and in the near future, they too face some complex challenges at present.

I'll get back to you as soon as I know more but would urge you to consider all available options. Happy to discuss these further if you wish.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
SPECIALIST CRIME INVESTIGATIONS
ROOM 1104 NEW SCOTLAND YARD
10 BROADWAY LONDON SW1H 0BG
[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2015 21:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: St Helena Inquiry

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see below a copy of an e mail I have written to [REDACTED] which I hope is self explanatory.

My appointment to the inquiry occurred while you were on secondment and I apologise if I have inadvertently breached protocol by approaching [REDACTED] directly. However, the Foreign Secretary has requested that the inquiry reports back in a relatively short time frame.

A further pressure is created by the inaccessibility of the island of St Helena and the FCO have pre booked flights and passages to and from the island between the 11th March and the 4th April.

I hope you will look favourably upon my request. I believe that the inquiry will be well served by having two such eminent officers from the Metropolitan police on the panel.

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Your sincerely,

Sasha Wass QC

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The inquiry requires the services of two police officers who are fully cognisant with current investigatory practices, who have the discretion, skill and experience to handle such a highly sensitive investigation. They will be required to look into a small number of case files, interview serving St Helenian police officers and advise me on the efficacy of the systems and procedures practiced on the island by the local police force.

A field trip to the island has been scheduled by the FCO between the 11th March and the 4th April. Additionally, the appointment would require a commitment of roughly half a day a week for the next six months. It is proposed that panel members will be remunerated by the FCO on an hourly basis for preparation and a daily rate for travelling time.

Because the FCO is also a target of the inquiry, they have taken the unusual step of asking me to select and appoint panel members myself, hence my direct approach to you.

Because the FCO is looking for a speedy investigation, I have taken the liberty of discussing the possible appointment with the two officers themselves. I have of course written to the [REDACTED] to advise him of this request. I will also be informing [REDACTED]

I should be grateful if you look upon this request favourably. If you wish, I would be delighted to discuss this further with you. My mobile number is [REDACTED]

Your sincerely,

Sasha Wass QC

<image4d0f6c.GIF>

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Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911

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Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 02:35 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
(Sensitive)
Subject: RE: St Helena

Hi Sasha

I will find out about the car and accommodation. It is being handled on island.

We will cover travel and other expenses for the panel members. They would invoice us. I am working on a contract at the moment, but we are seeking advice on the type of contract it should be. We can then give contracts to the other panel members when you have appointed them. It might work slightly differently for police as I believe we can ask for assistance from the force, rather than from individuals as they are still serving officers.

I will come back to you as soon as I know more.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

Deputy Head of the Falklands and Southern Oceans Dept Room 2/133 OAB
T: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 November 2014 20:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: St Helena

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e mail.

As far as the funding for the panel is concerned, the only option I consider appropriate is for the panel members to be remunerated by the FCO directly. [Your option 2]. I am not in a position to handle fees and all that entails. Additionally, could you let me know what is to be done about their expenses? If one or any of them is not London based, I want to be able to assure them that their travelling costs will be covered. Can they bill monthly during the course of the enquiry? Perhaps you could let me have sight of a proposed contract for the panel members so I can advise them of these terms before they are appointed?

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to visit schools etc? I imagined that [REDACTED] would be able to deal with the practical arrangements.

I look forward to receiving the proposed contract for my engagement tomorrow. I would ask that you give me time to consider it with care before signing it. If I receive it tomorrow, I will certainly hope to get it to you by Friday.

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Kindest regards,

Sasha

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Sent: 11 February 2015 17:44
To: 'sasha.wass@fco.gov.uk' [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Hayes (Sensitive)
Subject: Re: The Woss Inquirey OFFICIAL

25

CLASSIFICATION:OFFICIAL

Hi Sasha

Yes, we're working on this. Don't worry, it will be sorted.
Thanks

[REDACTED]
Deputy Head of the Falklands and Southern Oceans Dept

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 05:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Hayes (Sensitive)
Subject: FW: The Woss Inquirey

26

Dear [REDACTED]

See below from the AG. You will see that we are no further forward in this matter. Far from having any written assurance that I will be allowed to inspect the files, I am now told that no solutions have been found. Can I leave this with you to chase at the FCO end? We are getting very close to the date of departure.

I am happy for you to pass this on to Mark Waring.

Kindest regards,
Sasha

6KBW
COLLEGE HILL

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Tel No: 020 3301 0910; Fax No: 020 3301 0911
www.6kbw.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Subject: FW: The Woss Inquirey

Dear Ms Wass

I attach a memorandum that has been forwarded to me from Head of Safeguarding which was prepared by the Human Rights Facilitator. You will have to forgive the grammatical errors.

She raises a number of issues which I have been trying to resolve in terms of data protection. These are issues you may wish to address ahead of arrival through your solicitor.

I regret that the FCO have not been able to provide any solution which satisfies me that SHG or the Governor are immune from legal action should data be handed over without data subject consent. I understand that you have appointed solicitor to the panel and I would be grateful if you can provide me with details of the same so I may correspond with him or her in order that I may give appropriate advice to the Governor and to SHG as to disclosure and you are able to conduct the business of the inquiry.

Many thanks

Regards

[REDACTED]
Attorney General

The Castle, Jamestown, St. Helena
South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ

[REDACTED]
The St Helena Government website is at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh

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From: Human Rights Office
Sent: 10 February 2015 14:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Woss Inquirey

Dear All

I have, over the past few weeks, been asked many questions with regard to the forthcoming inquiry most of these questions have been asked by victims of abuse. I have compiled a list of some of the more difficult questions to answer (see attached). I was wondering if it would be possible to meet to discuss these issues primarily so that I can assist the victims who have asked for the information but also to offer any assistance the Human Rights Office can give to ensure that all those who need to be heard are.

Very best regards