

1. What do the victims want out of the inquiry?

For inquiries to be effective there has to be “buy-in” from the victims. They need to know what the potential outcomes may be for them. The victims may want anything from an apology, a chance to tell their story and be believed through to seeing perpetrators prosecuted and compensation

2. Do the victims want to give evidence?

Some might, some might not

3. Anonymity and confidentiality

This is very important and especially difficult to achieve, will Ms Woss be based in town? This will be very accessible but also very public.

4. Evidence taking process

Who asks questions?

Will there be cross-examination?

Can evidence be given in private?

Will help be available for people with learning difficulties?

5. Victim support

Who is going to look after witnesses, and provide support during the inquiry and afterwards?

6. Access to medical records

Will Ms Woss have access?

How will consent be obtained?

7. Access to social services records

Victims currently cannot see their own files without a court order – how can they give informed consent to them being viewed?

8. Redaction policy – is there one?

9. Implications – long term help & support

How will this all be communicated to give people time to get the support needed to prepare them to give evidence?

From: Sasha Wass [redacted]
Sent: 14 January 2015 14:56
To: Sean Burns [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: WASS INQUIRY - UK STAKEHOLDERS

(29)

Dear Sean,
Thank you for this list, which is extremely useful.
If you can get me contact numbers for as many as possible that would be great. I have already been in contact with the following, so you can cross them off the list:

[redacted]

Also, you can leave me to contact [redacted] directly.
Kindest regards,
Sasha

Sent from my iPad

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21 College Hill, EC4R 2RP, DX 135185 Cheapside
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(30)

On 12 Jan 2015, at 11:59, Sean Burns [redacted] wrote:

[redacted] Sasha

I attach a list of people you might want to contact prior to or after your visit to the island.

If you decide to speak to them please let me know and we will try and find contact details and put you in touch. Some will be easier to find than others.

You will note that I have included (former AG). As you know all [redacted]

If you need more background on any of the other individuals, please let me know.

Hope this helps.

Best wishes

Sean

Sean Burns

Head of the Governor's Office

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2015 16:09
To: Sasha Wass; Mark Warino
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Wass Report dates

(31)

Dear Sasha, Mark,

[REDACTED] and I have just spoken, and I think there was a crossed wire here.

We have of course got the Information Protocol (on the Inquiry website) which sets out at section 3 how any redactions would be made, in the very unlikely event of that being necessary.

We have not yet discussed with you what would be a reasonable timeframe to allow for that process, which we hope would be as light touch and expeditious as possible. In my view, it would be premature to discuss that at this stage, and it would be best addressed once the Inquiry is in the final report stage of its work, but please let me know if you think differently.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

| Room E.213 (Old Library) | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/fco

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2015 15:24
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Wass Report dates

(32)

Hi Sasha

Thanks so much, that does help.

So that would mean it would be after party conferences that the report would be going into Parliament. We will work with that knowledge and will prepare the library of the House and the calendar keepers when Parliament is back in session.

It would be great to discuss your plans for a redaction protocol at some point in the new few weeks so we can let the public know what to expect.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Head of Child Safeguarding Unit, Overseas Territories Directorate
OAB 2/133, SW1A 2AH

[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2015 10:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Wass Report dates

(33)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e mail.

The timeline that I am working to at present is as follows:

April/May and June: Further interviews in the UK
July/August: Drafting report
Beginning of September:
Maxwell letters to be sent out with a 14 day return date.
Mid September: Maxwellisation process concluded.
End of September: Report finalised.

I hope this helps.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 7:13 PM
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wass Report dates

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Dear Sasha

I hope this email finds you well. I am just writing to let you know about dates in September which might be of interest to you when you consider presenting your report to the Secretary of State.

As you know, the Secretary of State plans to publish the report by means of an oral or written statement to Parliament, which means the report would enjoy parliamentary privilege. So the report needs to be published when Parliament is sitting.

The House is sitting from 1-12 Sept, and then it rises again for party conferences and returns on 13 October until mid November.

In order to allow time for the procedures leading to publication that are set out in section 3 of the Inquiry's Information Protocol, we would need advance sight of your report before it is published. We have agreed with you that you would deliver your report by autumn and if you do that, we think the timing would be rather tight for publication during 1-12 September. Furthermore, we are aiming for total transparency and to be clear with Parliament and the public that your report is being afforded the correct weight and space for the media and others to digest it. There is likely to be a great deal of Parliamentary business between 1-12 Sept and we think a later publication date, after the return from party conferences, would be preferable when there is more space for your report to be seen and commented on. Do you have thoughts on this?

We wanted to let you know that we would need advance notice of your timeline so we could make sure a statement is given room on the Parliamentary calendar and the library of the House can receive your report. It is up to you as to whether you wish to brief the Foreign Secretary about your report and how you would like to go about announcing your conclusions. We would be happy to discuss this with you in order to facilitate it, not to influence your decisions in any way. We thought we should also discuss how you will be aiming to redact the published report, so that once again we can be transparent and the public will know what to expect.

Very happy to talk with you soon.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OAB 2/133, SW1A 2AH

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[REDACTED]

From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2015 11:39
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: rwd: MEDICAL info - please take a look and then forward to [REDACTED]
Attachments: MEDICAL Inquiry boat bookings.docx; ATT00001.htm [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]
Please see attached from [REDACTED] Can you confirm that this is all in order for both of us?
Kindest regards
Sasha

Sent from my iPhone

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MEDICAL AND NOK FOR BOAT BOOKINGS

[REDACTED] (Sasha WASS) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MEDICAL - [REDACTED]
well.

[REDACTED]

(2)

[Redacted]

From: Sasha Wass [Redacted]
Sent: 26 January 2015 14:45
To: [Redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Help

Dear [Redacted]

I have been sent a timesheet by Hays to fill in electronically. I find it completely impossible to use. None of the so called instructions seem to load. Would you be kind enough to speak to [Redacted] asap and ask her if it is possible to send my timesheet at the end of this month in the format that I have completed it? If I follow their requirements, this is going to take several hours of backdating. This is not a productive use of my time.

Many thanks,

Sasha

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From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2015 09:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Additional police officer

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Dear Both,

I have now identified a serving police officer from another force with a view to taking him to St Helena. I have contacted his superior officer who has asked about funding. I want to be able to say that he will sign the same contract on the same rate as the other two panel members I have appointed. Can you confirm asap that this is correct?

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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40

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2015 14:37
To: 'Sasha Wass'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Minister Swire
Attachments: 150219 Letter to Sasha Wass QC.PDF

Security Label: OFFICIAL

Dear Sasha,

Please see attached a letter from Minister Swire regarding the inquiry in St Helena. A hard copy will be with you shortly.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] | Child Safeguarding | Overseas Territories Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | Old Admiralty Building | Room [REDACTED]
| London SW1A 2PA | tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 11 February 2015 14:44
To: Sasha Wass [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Mark Waring CV and contact details
Attachments: Career Summary (2).doc
Security Label: OFFICIAL

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Sasha

Please find attached the CV for Mark Waring from TSOL. He will be coming to St Helena as requested.

His emails is: [Redacted] and his telephone number is [Redacted]

Best wishes

Head of Child Safeguarding Unit, Overseas Territories Directorate
OAB 2/133, SW1A 2AH

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:

Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
17 February 2015 07:51

46b

Subject: RE: Documents and disclosure

Dear Attorney,

Thank you for your latest e-mail.

I apologise for what must appear to be a delay in responding to your e mail of the 4th February. However, on its receipt, I immediately set in train a process to address your concerns. Regrettably, it was not until last week that the FCO were able to appoint a Treasury Solicitor to the Inquiry and it was only yesterday afternoon that we were able to meet.

I have asked him to contact you directly to deal with the legal obstacles which you perceive stand in the way of the Inquiry. I am copying the T Sol, Mark Waring, into this e-mail.

You suggest that I have not informed anyone of which documents held by SHG the Inquiry will require to view. This is not correct. I wrote to Sean Burns on the 19th January informing him that I would require police files going back over 10 years. He replied, saying: "*We are working on the assumption that you will get access to all the papers you need including the police and social service files.*" His response was consistent with the positive and helpful approach the Governor took when he came to my chamber on the 8th December of last year.

In case there is any doubt, it is inherent in the Terms of Reference that the Inquiry will be required to see all the document necessary to address the issues under investigation. These are:

Allegations made by:

[REDACTED]

Allegations of Systemic failings in:

- a. Child Safeguarding on St Helena.
- b. The Saint Helena Police Department.
- c. The Saint Helena Government.

To assess the response by the FCO and Dfid to 1 and 2 above.

The handling and treatment by SHG, FCO and DFID of "whistleblowers".

It is quite clear from these TORs that the Inquiry will need access to all material held by SHG. I am sorry if this was not clear to you.

Since your first e-mail to me on the 19th January, I have been engaged in a considerable amount of additional work not envisaged by the FCO when I was appointed. I fear this has arisen from an unnecessarily defensive and protective approach on your part which may give the unwitting impression that the SHG wishes to be obstructive.

I have made it plain to the FCO that unless and until the matters, which you raised, are cleared up and unfettered access to the material we will need to see is approved, a question mark hangs over the planned visit in March and it may yet need to be postponed. In order to investigate the validity of the LFF report it is obvious that we must be able to see all the material to which [REDACTED] had access to, in order to assess the validity and analysis of their conclusions.

I have arranged to meet members of the Inquiry panel this morning in order to firm up a list of whom we want to meet and which documents we want to see. In the meantime, here is my preliminary list. As you see, it follows the TORs.

1. All material directly bearing on the TORs and persons, from the Governor downwards, who are able to throw light upon, or were in any way involved in the investigations, responses to them, allegations and circumstances surrounding them as well as communications with the FCO relating to them.
2. This will necessarily involve access to all the papers seen by the LFF from which they drew their conclusions, including police files.
3. All welfare files and all records and documentation regarding the whistle blowers.

4. We would like to meet all those officials involved in child care and related matters. These would include SHG elected representatives sitting on the three relevant Education, Public Health and Community committees, officials from the Directorate of Health and Social Welfare and Directorate of Education and Employment, Safeguarding Children and Young Person's Board, the Children's champion, departments and so forth.
5. From the police, besides having access to sex abuse files and records of such cases going back at least to 2009, we would wish to meet as many of the serving team as possible in the time. We also wish to inspect current training and practice manuals and to discuss the changes made in 2014 to the ethics and values of the force as well as to discuss the matters raised by the LFF report and remedial actions taken as a consequence of it. Also we will wish to see the files on [REDACTED] and the whistle blower.
6. Similarly with the social welfare departments on SHG and AI we would like access the files seen by LFF and particularly to look into the [REDACTED] allegations, the documentation arising from them, the case files involved, the actions taken and meet those individuals directly involved. We would also like to meet current staff and have access to training and procedure manuals as well as to discuss the application of them. It will also be useful to see information on staffing qualifications, recruitment and training.
7. We would like to meet the heads of the four schools and the persons in charge of child welfare to discuss child protection awareness and procedures.
8. We would like the chance to meet those involved in child residential care, scout leaders, New Horizons staff, church leaders, Salvation Army leaders, leaders of local safeguarding boards, look at MAPPA arrangements and meet those involved MAPACs.
9. Healthcare – we would like to meet those doctors and other involved in child health care specifically with responsibilities for dealing with baby battering, child abuse and related matters.
10. Generally we will wish to see procedures and application of them relating to all childcare matters and to inquire about inter-departmental co-ordination.

11. We would like to meet the law officers, prosecution service team, magistrates and available judges as well as to visit the prison, meet probation officers and offender management officials.

My experience and the experience of others who have run similar Inquiries to mine would suggest that access to such material and persons is a normal and necessary requirement and without which there could not be an Inquiry.

The suggestion that you made in your latest e-mail that *"all material will be produced to the AG's chamber for recording and disclosure. This will ensure that a complete log of data is recorded at a central point...to enable traceability of data,"* will have the inevitable effect of making this forthcoming trip to the Island unmanageable, expensive cumbersome and time consuming. Given the extensive paper handling procedures you say should be put into place I can see why you are so pessimistic about the available time scale

The Inquiry's intention is to sample at random files held by the various SHG agencies and not to inspect every singly document going back to 2009.

If we were to follow your procedure, a colossal number of files would need to be transferred backwards and forward across the island. It seems to be far more practical that an investigating officer from the inquiry should attend the location of the files and access them under supervision in situ. I hope you can see the sense in this approach.

It is everyone's interests that the Inquiry works smoothly and efficiently and is not obstructed in its objectives. I look forward to hearing that you have successfully removed any legal obstacles which you envisage stand in the way of the Inquiry.

Kindest regards,

Sasha Wass

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[REDACTED]
From: Sasha Wass [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2015 09:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:33 PM

Dear Both

I think that I have mentioned this before: it is imperative that my [REDACTED] either pays directly or reimburses you in full for all expenses over and above those directly incurred by my visit. He should therefore be charged the normal permit fees and any other costs any independent visitor would face. This is why, for example, I think arranging for a hire car and billing him for it is so important. We cannot afford to invite even the faintest suggestion or rumour of subsidy or free loading. You must decide the additional cost of providing accommodation for a couple as opposed to an individual and charge him accordingly.

On the mundane level, neither of us has particular dietary requirements. However, I am not at all sure how the dining arrangements will be managed as the internet makes food shopping and eating out on St Helena appear somewhat challenging. Compounding that, you have located us a substantial drive away from Jamestown. Are there facilities, for example, to enable us to arrange to feed and entertain the team in private at the lodgings on St Helena or is that impractical? That way would allow us to discuss business in the evenings.

We were thinking of driving to Brize Norton and leaving our car there for the duration. Is that possible?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

Sasha

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 08 April 2015 10:14
To: Sasha Wass
Cc: Mark Waring -
(Sensitive)
Subject: Police Investigate Serious Assault
Attachments: Police Investigate Serious Assault.docx
Security Label: OFFICIAL

Welcome back Sasha

We recently received the attached – notification of a SHPS investigation into a serious assault on a woman on St Helena that the inquiry may be interested in.

Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Child Safeguarding & Domestic Violence Policy Officer | Child Safeguarding Unit | Overseas Territories Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office
☒OAB 2/139 | ☒Email: [Redacted] | ☎Tel: [Redacted] | ☎BB: [Redacted] | URL: www.gov.uk/fco | Visit our blogs at <http://blogs.tco.gov.uk>

From: Ian Jones
Sent: 02 April 2015 16:41
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Police Invesugate Serious Assault

Please see the attached message from the Chief of Police.

Regards,

Ian

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**St Helena
Government**

POLICE INVESTIGATE SERIOUS ASSAULT

Message from Chief of Police

'Following a recent report to the Police Service, an investigation is being undertaken into a serious assault on a young woman, which occurred on a Saturday evening in early February at about 10.30pm near to the Museum in Jamestown. Two males, who were not known to the victim, were involved in the assault and their identities remain unknown. No other details can be released at this point.'

'Whilst the circumstances of this assault lead me to believe this appears to be an isolated incident, I would urge anyone with any information in relation to this assault, or indeed any other incident, to please come forward and speak to us. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.'

'Additional patrols are in place in Jamestown to provide reassurance to those enjoying a night out. However, I would ask that common sense measures are taken in terms of personal safety. This should include being aware of one's surroundings, staying in the company of friends and ensuring that arrangements are in place for getting home safely after an evening out.'

Note to Editors

'For operational reasons no other details of the incident will be released at this point and I would ask that there is no additional speculation. When further information can be released, I will make it known. Any speculation or non-factual reporting could compromise future criminal proceedings.'

'This press release has been delayed for a short period for operational reasons.'

**Trevor Botting,
Chief of Police
2 April 2015**

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