



30 November 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO BRITISH VICTIMS OF OVERSEAS TERRORISM

My name is Lynda Chalker, and I was asked by Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to chair a panel to select the design of the National Memorial to British Victims of Overseas Terrorism.

Let me first say thank you to you for taking part in the online consultation on the National Memorial that the Government conducted earlier this year. In your response you indicated that you wished to be kept informed on progress.

In July this year, the Government published a summary of the responses to the consultation, and set out the key decisions it had taken to develop the Memorial.

The members of the panel, including myself, are:

- Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Founder and Chairman of Africa Matters Ltd., a member of the House of Lords, and former Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office;
- Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation;
- Caroline Douglas, Director, Contemporary Art Society;
- Penny Johnson CBE, Director, Government Art Collection;
- Keith Lane, Cruse Bereavement; and,
- Sandy Nairne CBE FSA, writer and curator, former Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

The panel has been extremely grateful for the views expressed through the online consultation. This has given us a wide range of views to take into account when developing a brief, which tells the artists what we are looking for. We are currently sharing this brief with potential artists.

One of the key points from what you told us in the consultation was the importance of a peaceful and quiet location. We have worked with the team at the National Memorial Arboretum to select a suitable site, and are confident that our preferred location will meet what you told us would be important.

As a panel, we are seeking to create a Memorial that will stand in perpetuity for the victims of overseas terrorism, and will provide a place of remembrance for their families. The panel is also mindful of a further point made in consultation: that we must be prepared for there to be future victims and to allow for their families to form a connection with the Memorial in the fullness of time. The online consultation also showed that members of the public, although not directly affected, wished to pay their respects to those who had died.

Our role is to deliver a design that meets these needs, and has long-standing, national significance.

We are currently approaching artists whom we consider have the ability to deliver a work of art of the required standing and significance. We expect to receive their proposals for the Memorial over the next few months. As part of the assessment of the proposals, we will also ensure that the design is appropriate for the location at the National Memorial Arboretum.

We will keep you in touch as artists begin to finalise their proposals, but I am pleased to be able to update you on progress so far.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Chalker of Wallasey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'C'.

BARONESS CHALKER OF WALLASEY