

Date 4 August 2021
Our Reference 201345.0002/KJM
Your Reference



To BDB Pitmans
By email only:
NatashaDAVIS@bdbpitmans.com

Hickman & Rose
Pennybank
33-35 St John's Square
London EC1M 4DS

T: 020 7702 5331 (office hours)
T: 020 7702 5349 (emergencies)
DX: 53346 Clerkenwell
F: 020 7253 1367
E: mail@hickmanandrose.co.uk

Dear Sirs

Inquest touching on the death of Jack Merritt (Fishmongers Hall) – submissions from the family in reply to the responsive submissions concerning the PFD report

We are instructed to make the following short responses:

1. To the responsive submissions from the University Cambridge University in relation to Learning Together:

Jack's family is pleased to see the University's commitment to conduct a proper review process. What that process will produce can't be predicted, but Jack's family accepts in good faith the commitment that has been made (also noting the working group with HMPPS) that full consideration will be given to all the issues raised.

2. To the responsive submissions from Secretaries of State in relation to the security service:

We note that the Secretaries of State deny any jury focus on MI5, but we submit that it is hopeless to suggest that the jury findings are not aimed, certainly in part, at MI5. The efforts taken to suggest otherwise do not give us confidence that the lessons are being taken on and learned.

Khan's management went wrong at MAPPA level, and Jack's family maintains that there is something terribly wrong where MI5 attends and receives but does not transmit, particularly with the absence of pre-meetings. If there is no discussion involving input from MI5, then MAPPA is not operating in the way it is intended.

It may be that the new core group will mean that the process works better, but that is not yet clear, and we note that the lack of input from MI5 is a long standing concern (see paras 15-17 of our PFD submissions). Witness A's evidence about positive change in information sharing is tentative – see the section highlighted at para 5(a) of SSHD's response – "I think it will extend to all of that..."

It appears to Jack's family that there is still not complete learning and recognition here, and the coroner should record the importance of this happening.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H-R', likely representing Jane Hickman.

HICKMAN AND ROSE

Partners: Ben Rose, Ross Dixon, Daniel Machover, Jenny Wiltshire, Andrew Katzen, Kate Maynard, Aileen Colhoun, Stefano Ruis, Peter Csemiczky, Christopher Houssemayne du Boulay, Emily Sheils, Claire Wallace

Associates: Steffan Baker, Rose Davies Commander, Ellie Cornish, Olivia Dwan, Saffiatou Jallow, Helen Stone, Toby Wilton

Consultants: Jane Hickman, Erika Rainger

Hickman and Rose is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, SRA number 73698

