

**INQUESTS INTO THE DEATHS AS A RESULT  
OF THE TERROR ATTACK AT FISHMONGERS' HALL  
ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE ON  
REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FURTHER DEATHS**

1. These brief submissions are an attempt to assist the Coroner by addressing some of the suggested 'recommendations' in the submissions advanced on behalf of the family of Saskia Jones. No separate submissions are advanced in response to those on behalf of the family of Jack Merritt, which focus more specifically on Learning Together and MI5.
2. In short, it is submitted that steps have been taken both at regional and national level since the tragic events of November 2019 such that a PFD report directed to Staffordshire Police *specifically* is not required.
3. The observations made in paragraph 43 of the submissions do need to be considered in the context of the evidence as a whole :
  - a. The allocation of TACT offenders for Part 4 management to members of a Prevent team within Staffordshire was a practice being repeated in other forces across England and Wales at that time, indeed some forces used non-CT officers<sup>1</sup> to perform the role.
  - b. The allocation was supported by the Lead for Counter Terrorism in the West Midlands, ACC Ward, who told the Inquest that they had the 'required skills that we would want to be able to carry out this work'<sup>2</sup> and that he generally supported their use<sup>3</sup>.
  - c. It was well understood that the Prevent officer role was not an investigative role (the criticism at 43(ii) is misplaced). The CTU with the investigative specialism led on investigations<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Day 27/p49/line 13-25: ACC Ward

<sup>2</sup> Day 27/p14/ line 5-19: ACC Ward

<sup>3</sup> Day 27/p49/line 20-25 : ACC Ward

<sup>4</sup> Day 27/p15/ line 5-12: ACC Ward

- d. Specifically, regarding the allocation of Khan, the Prevent team had been involved in the ‘successful’ return to custody of the previous Staffordshire TACT offender<sup>5</sup>.
  - e. No concern was in fact raised by SB or WMCTU that Khan was not being managed appropriately<sup>6</sup> by the Prevent team.
  - f. There is no ‘wrong side of the sterile corridor’. The sharing of all information and intelligence (including intelligence from a covert operation) with all of those involved in the management of a TACT offender including all those on the overt side (such as ‘Prevent’ officers) and all attendees at MAPPa is not straightforward. One has to guard against inadvertent compromise of ongoing investigations and the risk of sharing information with those not sufficiently vetted<sup>7</sup>. ACC Ward gave evidence that the new manual of guidance (see further below) ‘will set out, importantly, the need to preserve the sterile corridor between the two worlds..<sup>8</sup>.
4. On a practical level the Coroner should be reluctant to make recommendations which overly prescribe the need for authorisation by MAPPa of visits by police to approved premises, or frequency of contact between police ‘nominal managers’ and TACT offenders as these may veer into operational policing decisions and MAPPa is not agile enough to react to time sensitive events or issues
5. The steps taken at regional level have included the following :
- i. In November 2019 the role performed by Staffordshire Prevent officers was already in the process of being transitioned across to the West Midlands CTU, the regional leads for CT investigations. That transition has now been completed<sup>9</sup>.
  - ii. Project Amplify resulted in the development of a single counter-terrorism policing unit combining Staffordshire Police Special Branch within the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit<sup>10</sup>. That transition has also now been completed.

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<sup>5</sup> Day 25/p187-188 : DCS Oomer

<sup>6</sup> Day 27/p50 line 2-17 ACC Ward; Day 25/190 DCS Oomer

<sup>7</sup> Day 27/p26-27 : ACC Ward

<sup>8</sup> Day 27/p37-38 : ACC Ward

<sup>9</sup> Day 25/p172 line 10 – p173 line 8 : DCS Oomer

<sup>10</sup> Day27/p10 – 11 : ACC Ward

- iii. The combined effect of those changes is that on a regional basis the management of counter-terrorist offenders in the community now sits within the WMCTU.
6. The steps taken at national level have included the following :
- i. Project Semper was established and set out a series of recommendations for how the policing network could better manage CT nominals within the community<sup>11</sup>;
  - ii. This has recognised such management as a capability within counter-terrorism policing<sup>12</sup>;
  - iii. Funding has been attracted to create CT specialist posts for ‘nominal management’ in the community<sup>13</sup>;
  - iv. A new nominal management training course has been developed and piloted for those specialists<sup>14</sup>;
  - v. A manual of guidance has been produced to serve as a policy for management of TACT offenders in the community which will clearly address roles, responsibilities, methods, and processes including working with and sharing of information with MAPPA<sup>15</sup> - Staffordshire police absolutely recognise the need for information sharing, which needs to be consistent with the interests of national security;
  - vi. There will be a nominal management capability board and a counter-terrorism nominal management strategic partnership to ensure joint working with other agencies<sup>16</sup>.
7. Staffordshire Police welcomed the changes at regional level and welcomes the changes at national level too. The advent of new training and further specialisation with a national manual of guidance and strategic overview will be of benefit as the number of TACT offenders being released back into the community increases.

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<sup>11</sup> Day 27/p34 line 1-7 : ACC Ward

<sup>12</sup> Day 27/p35 line 12-14 : ACC Ward

<sup>13</sup> Day 27/p35-36 : ACC Ward

<sup>14</sup> Day 27/p36 line 15-20 : ACC Ward

<sup>15</sup> Day 27/p30 lines 3-8 : ACC Ward

<sup>16</sup> Day 27/p39 line 7-21 : ACC Ward

8. Further clarification of the precise nature of the training, manual of guidance and strategic partnerships can no doubt be obtained from CTPHQ and the NPCC should it be considered necessary.

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2021