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Dear Ms Lester

## **Regulation 28 report on action to prevent future deaths**

Thank you for writing to me on 3 November 2021, enclosing the regulation 28 report from the Coroner's inquests arising from the deaths in the Fishmonger's Hall terror attack of 29 November 2019. I have read and considered the report and in particular recommendations MC1, MC2 and MC3. We have also engaged with officials in the Department for Education to understand the steps they intend to take in response to these recommendations.

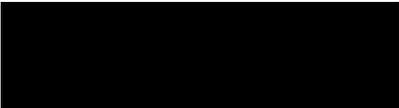
The Office for Students accepts recommendations MC1, MC2 and MC5 in full. Our proposed response to each of these recommendations is to write to the accountable officers at all registered higher education providers in England. In writing to these providers we will make them aware of the report and ask them to consider carefully those recommendations and decide whether they may need to take steps to change their approach to risk assessment of events and of programmes of higher education that involve continued contact with offenders in prisons or after their release into the community. We will also ask them to consider whether further steps should be taken in relation to information sharing with external venues to inform them of high-risk features of events, including for instance the attendance of recently released serious offenders.

We will also make our counterparts in the devolved nations aware of the coroner's report and our response, so that they can determine whether it would be appropriate to take steps in relation to the recommendations. We will write to the sector as set out before 31 January 2021.

I understand that the Secretary of State for Education also plans to take steps to engage with people in the higher education sector to encourage them to take any steps necessary to implement the recommendations in the coroner's report. The OfS will make sure that the Secretary of State knows about the steps we have taken as the principal regulator of English higher education as he engages with the higher education sector. In addition, I understand that the Department for Education (DfE) is also engaging with Her Majesty's Prisons and Probations Service and the Ministry of Justice to design a new framework to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of prisons and universities when they work in partnership to deliver learning where students study

alongside serving prisoners or those released on licence. We will of course work with the DfE to signpost to any new guidance for higher education providers in England.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Dandridge  
Chief Executive