



IN THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN ("THE INQUIRY")

SECTION 21 INQUIRIES ACT 2005 NOTICE TO JOHNNY MERCER MP

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE under section 21(2)(a) Inquiries Act 2005 ("The Act") that Johnny Mercer MP is required to produce a witness statement to the Inquiry answering the questions set out in Annex A to this notice.

A witness statement provided in compliance with this notice will be treated in confidence and, if necessary, will be the subject of a restriction order under section 19 of the Act. In particular:

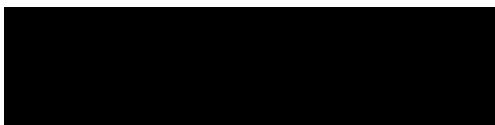
- a. Disclosure of the witness statement will not be made to any person who is not a member of the Inquiry Legal Team without the consent of Mr Mercer.
- b. No action will be taken that would lead a person to identify Mr Mercer as the source of information in relation to an identifiable individual that he has named in the response without the consent of Mr Mercer.

Mr Mercer is required to supply the witness statement **by 4pm on Friday 5 April 2024**.

If Mr. Mercer claims that he is unable to comply with this notice, or that it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for him to do so, he may apply to me, pursuant to section 21(4) of the Act, for revocation or variation of this Notice. If he wishes to make such a claim, any representations must be made in writing supported by a witness statement signed by Mr Mercer and supplied **no later than 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2024**, setting out all of the matters upon which he relies.

Consequences of non-compliance:

- a. **Failure to comply with this notice without reasonable excuse is, pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act, a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment and/or a fine.**
- b. **The Chair of the Inquiry may certify a failure to comply with this notice under section 36(1) of the Act. This enables the High Court to enforce the order, including by contempt proceedings which may result in imprisonment.**



Rt Hon. Sir Charles Haddon-Cave
Chair of the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan

Issued 13 March 2024