

Dear Sir/Madam

I email further to the briefing I sent, regarding the Home Secretary's public inquiry following the conviction of Wayne Couzens, now that the Home Secretary has appointed a Chair. I attach a copy of the previous briefing here for your ease of reference.

From responses, I understand many parliamentarians share CWJ's view (which is echoed by myriad organisations working in this field) that it is vital that the inquiry be appropriately constituted on a statutory footing so that it is capable of: fully examining the issues of police perpetrated abuse; setting out recommendations to prevent such criminality in the future; and restoring public confidence. As such, I email to update you.

The Home Secretary announced that she appointed Dame Elish Angoloni to chair the inquiry. CWJ has no concerns regarding Dame Elish, or her capability. However this appointment does not rectify the problems in the constitution of the inquiry, which are set out in the briefing. Indeed an appointment in and of itself highlights that the Home Secretary is pushing onwards with a non-statutory inquiry. No matter the excellence of Dame Elish, she still requires the powers that only a statutory inquiry can provide. Nor is it an answer to say that the Home Secretary will keep these issues under review; the inquiry should commence from the outset on the proper statutory footing. The recent news that another Met officer, David Carrick, has been charged with 14 offences, including 4 counts of rape, demonstrates why this inquiry must be properly conducted from the outset.

CWJ still awaits a full response to our correspondence with the Home Secretary, including a response to our concerns that she has side-stepped the framework debated and set down by parliament, and why. However I email to outline that we have agreed not to issue proceedings in the High Court at present to provide her even more time to consider the issues, until 17 December 2021. This is despite it being over 9 weeks since she announced this non-statutory inquiry and our correspondence since 14 October 2021 going largely unanswered throughout this time. I still hope that litigation will not be necessary and we are allowing the Home Secretary this further time in a final effort to avoid litigation. I am setting this out so you will understand why CWJ maintains our position and to outline again that should you have any queries, you should not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Debaleena Dasgupta.

Kind regards

Harriet