

ANNEX

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY CONCERNING THE DEATH OF SHEKU BAYOH

QUESTIONS FOR DEBORAH COLES (INQUEST)

NOTES:

In answering the questions below, you are asked:

1. To draw as fully as you consider appropriate on your professional experience.
2. Where the position in respect of any of the matters below has changed over time, please distinguish clearly between –
 - a. The position as at 3 May 2015.
 - b. The current position and the developments which have led to it.
3. To comment on where, if at all, in your experience, the race, religion or ethnicity of the deceased person or their family is a factor.

To draw on any conclusions, recommendations or lessons learned from previous cases which you consider to be relevant.

1. <u>Introductory questions</u>
1.1. Full name, age, date of birth.
1.2. Current professional title
1.3. Length of service in current role.
1.4. What are the aims and objectives of INQUEST.
1.5. What are INQUEST's principal ways of meeting their aims and objectives?
1.6. Describe the services INQUEST provides to bereaved families. How many other organisations provide the services that your organisation does?
1.7. How is INQUEST funded? How does the output of your organisation compare to its level of resources?

1.8. What experience does INQUEST have in relation to legal proceedings, including public inquiries, concerning deaths in following contact with the police?

1.9. What is your professional experience of legal proceedings, including reviews and public inquiries concerning deaths following contact with the police?

2. Informing bereaved families of a death

2.1. In your experience, what are the main issues that arise in relation to how family members are first informed about the death of a relative following contact with the police?

2.2. What issues, if any, arise about the delivery of “**death messages**” to family members:

- a. The timing of death messages.
- b. The accuracy of information provided to family
- c. Failures to inform family members about a death.
- d. The way messages are delivered.
- e. By whom the messages are delivered.
- f. The delivery of death messages with appropriate religious and/or cultural sensitivity.

2.3. What, if anything, would you consider to be best practice in relation to the delivery of death messages and any issues that you have referred to above?

2.4. Focusing on the immediate aftermath of an incident, how would you describe the most common concerns of bereaved families in relation to (“**the initial account**”), particularly with regard to:

- a. The amount of information bereaved families receive about the circumstances of a loved one’s death.

b. The accuracy of information given to bereaved families about the circumstances of a loved one's death.

2.5. What do you understand to be the role of a Family Liaison Officer (“FLO”)?

2.6. How would you assess the importance of that role, from the perspective of a bereaved family?

2.7. In your experience, what skills and personal qualities does the FLO role require?

2.8. What factors undermine the effective performance of a FLO?

2.9. To the extent that it is not addressed below, how does the possibility that a death has occurred following contact with the police affect the relationship between a FLO and a bereaved family?

2.10. In your experience, what challenges are presented to the relationship between FLOs and families?

2.11. What do you see as the typical reasons for such breakdowns?

2.12. How could this liaison between the police and the family be improved, bearing in mind your knowledge and experience of concerns families have when a family member has died after contact with the police?

2.13. In your experience, where it occurs, what are the effects of friends or family members becoming the subject of police interest and/or investigation in the aftermath of a death in custody on (i) the investigation of the death and/or a family's experience or perception of it?

3. The post-mortem

3.1. How would you describe the common experiences of bereaved families in relation to communication regarding post-mortem examinations?

3.2. To the extent that you have not addressed it above:

- a. How would you describe the experience of bereaved families in the identification process and what are common concerns?
- b. How would describe the experience of bereaved families for whom a death engages particular religious or cultural rites?
- c. How would you describe the experience of, and common concerns of, bereaved families who wish to view their loved one's body after death?

3.3. What, if anything, would you consider to be best practice in relation to issues that you consider to have arisen in relation to post-mortems?

3.4. What support, assistance and information could be given to families prior to and after viewing the body that would help them?

4. Media engagement

4.1. What are the common concerns that families have in relation to media reporting of deaths following contact with the police?

4.2. What steps, if any, are you aware of that can be taken to alleviate these concerns?

4.3. What is your experience of media engagement by the police and/or Police Federations, where a death has followed contact with the police - in particular, are there any common themes arising out of such media engagement?

4.4. How would you describe the common experiences of bereaved families in relation to the media, particularly including the following:

- a. The representation of their loved one.
- b. Friends and family members of the deceased.

- c. The representation of the police and/or other state bodies.
- d. The release of information to the press, in particular before that information has been shared with the family of the deceased.

5. Post incident management

5.1. Are there, common experiences or concerns of bereaved families in relation to the aftermath of a death following contact with the police? If so, how would you describe them?

5.2. To what extent, if any, have the following issues arisen in your experience of cases concerning deaths following contact with the police; and if they have arisen, what is your assessment of their impact on their relationship and engagement with the families?

- a. The potential for conferral by officers?
- b. The status of officers in the aftermath of an incident – whether as witnesses or suspects.
- c. Issues arising in relation to or arising from legal advice and taking accounts from officers.
- d. Issues of candour .
- e. The taking of initial accounts (the completion of notebooks; obtaining operational statements; or taking witness statements) from police officers

5.3. What would you consider to be the main issues that impact family involvement in post-death investigations?

5.4. What, if anything, would you consider to be best practice in relation to post-incident management and any issues that you have referred to above?

6. Miscellaneous

6.1. Please state the following in the final paragraph of your statement:-

“I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry’s website.”

6.2. Please sign and date your statement.