

**INQUESTS ARISING FROM THE DEATHS
IN THE WESTMINSTER TERROR ATTACK OF 22 MARCH 2017**

**IPCC NOTE IN RESPONSE TO THE AGENDA AND COUNSEL TO THE
INQUESTS SUBMISSIONS FOR PRE-INQUEST HEARING ON 15
JANUARY 2018**

1. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) became the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) on the 8 of January 2018 but for all relevant purposes in connection with the inquests it has the same rights and duties. It is grateful for the opportunity to make a response to the proposed agenda and the submissions of counsel to the inquests.
2. As set out in counsel to the inquests' submissions Dr Wilcox recognised the IPCC, now the IOPC, as an interested person to the inquest into the death Khalid Masood only, by operation of section 42(7)(k) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.
3. The investigation has concluded and a copy of the Lead Investigator's report has been provided to the Chief Coroner in redacted and unredacted form, together with a list of all material retained by its investigation. The Lead Investigator's opinion in the report was that Mr Masood had presented an imminent and serious threat to life and that the officer who shot him honestly believed that to be so; taking into account the seriousness and the imminence of the threat and the (limited) other options for using force available, there was no indication that any of the three shots fired amounted to an unreasonable degree of force or that he continued firing for any longer than necessary. It is however submitted that the Lead Investigator's opinions have no relevance to the inquest which will determine its verdicts according to the evidence it hears.
4. Not least because the investigation has finished, the IPCC considers that its role in the inquests, including that of Mr Masood, should be limited to assisting the Chief Coroner by ensuring that evidence from its investigation is available for the inquests. With this in mind it will be represented at the Pre-Inquest Review Hearing on 15 January 2017 but on the basis of the information presently known to it, the IPCC does not intend to be represented at the inquest itself. This will be reviewed if IPCC witnesses are to be called and/or matters arise which require representations to be made by it.
5. Much of the material in the possession of the IPCC duplicates material in possession of the police investigation. In these circumstances the arrangements for providing material to the Chief Coroner, in the IPCC's view, are best dealt with through continued liaison between the IPCC, the MPS and the solicitor to the inquests. It is not anticipated that any PII or other sensitivity issues will arise in relation to material generated or gathered by the IPCC itself. The MPS will take the lead on issues of sensitivity relating to material gathered by its investigation and provided by it to the IPCC.
6. The IOPC respectfully agrees with counsel to the inquests that Mr Masood's inquest should be heard separately and that a jury is required for it. It does not

intend to make submissions in relation to the other agenda items but will seek to assist the Chief Coroner in any way that it can.

10 January 2017

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