

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

SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE (“LAS”)

1. The oral submissions made on behalf of the sisters of PC Keith Palmer, GM on 13 September 2018 raise the possibility of an adjournment to the Inquests that may affect the timetabling of evidence for the remaining LAS witness, Douglas Hope. These brief written submissions address this matter.
2. LAS remains neutral on the issue of an adjournment. It makes no submissions at this stage in respect of the procedural and substantive issues concerning article 2 ECHR or the recent suggestion that a jury be summonsed.
3. However, LAS respectfully agrees with the observations made by the Chief Coroner at the close of the hearings on 13 September. Even witnesses from the emergency services have found it difficult to attend and give evidence about the events considered by these Inquests, such was the horrific and inhumane nature of the attack. No doubt the same point applies with still greater force to those who were simply caught up in events rather than attending in a professional capacity.
4. An example of this point, should it be needed, may be found in the observations of one witness at [REDACTED]:

“ [REDACTED] ”

5. LAS agrees with the Coroner, and with Counsel to the Inquests,¹ that the disruption and distress that will be caused to witnesses by an adjournment is a relevant factor to be considered.

¹ See §4(a) of the Note of Counsel to the Inquests dated 11 September 2018.

6. LAS also adopts the observations in the first sentence of the submissions of the Parliamentary Authorities and acknowledges the considerable amount of hard work that has been undertaken by the Coroner's legal team in preparing for the Inquests.

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13 September 2018