

REVIEW AND REPORT OF THE HILLSBOROUGH FAMILIES' EXPERIENCES BY THE RT REV BISHOP JAMES JONES KBE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ninety six men, women and children died as a result of injuries suffered at the FA Cup semi final at Hillsborough stadium on 15 April 1989. This disaster was a personal tragedy for hundreds of people and an event of major national and international significance. It was the worst disaster in British sporting history. In December 2012, following the publication of the Hillsborough Independent Panel report in September 2012 the High Court quashed the original inquest verdicts. It ordered fresh inquests, which opened in Warrington on 31 March 2014 and concluded on 26 April 2016. The jury decided that the 96 Liverpool supporters who died as a result of the crushing were unlawfully killed which replaced the verdicts of the original inquests.

The then Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP in her oral statement to the House of Commons on 27 April 2016, announced that she had asked the Rt Rev Bishop James Jones, the former Bishop of Liverpool and Chair of the Hillsborough Independent Panel to produce a report on the Hillsborough families' experiences. The then Home Secretary said:

'I am keen that we understand and learn from the families' experiences. I have therefore asked Bishop James, who is my adviser on Hillsborough, to write a report which draws on these experiences. This report will be published in due course to ensure that the full perspective of those most affected by the Hillsborough disaster is not lost.'

The remit of the Review and Report will be primarily to hear directly from the families about their experiences, over the past 27 years. Bishop James Jones will also hear from representatives of the families and other relevant experts. He will also consider any written submissions which are submitted.

The Review and Report will cover the history of the Hillsborough families' experiences throughout the whole period, ranging from the conduct of past police investigations, through their engagement with public authorities, to the current investigations.

The Report will have to be mindful not to prejudice the ongoing criminal investigations into events at Hillsborough and its aftermath which are being conducted by the Independent Police Complaints Commission and Operation Resolve.

Bishop James Jones will present his final report to the Home Secretary, including any points of learning that he may choose to highlight for the Home Secretary's consideration. The Hillsborough families will be given the opportunity to see how the report reflects their recorded experiences, ahead of publication.

It is envisaged that Bishop James Jones will complete his Review and produce his Report in spring 2017.