

**BEFORE THE CHIEF CORONER HHJ LUCRAFT QC**  
**INQUESTS ARISING FROM THE DEATHS IN THE WESTMINSTER TERROR**  
**ATTACK OF 22 MARCH 2017**  
**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF PC KEITH PALMER GM**

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**RESPONSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES TO THE REGULATION**  
**28 REPORT ON ACTION TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

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**Introduction**

1. This response is submitted on behalf of the Parliamentary Authorities in reply to the Regulation 28 Report dated 19 December 2018.

**Matter of Concern 12**

2. The suggestion is that the automation of Carriage Gates and their general ease of use be specifically and expressly considered as part of the ongoing renewal project. The Parliamentary Authorities respectfully agree and already plan to do this.
3. The Parliamentary Authorities can confirm that these issues have been considered as part of the project for improved security in New Palace Yard. Mechanisation to assist with opening and closing the gates (which the Parliamentary Security Department distinguishes from automation, which implies automatic operation in some circumstances and could itself be potentially problematic from a security perspective) is an area that the New Palace Yard project team have discussed.
4. Following extensive discussion, the plan at present is that the original Carriage Gates will be refurbished and returned to replace the current temporary gates that are in place. The Parliamentary Security Department will continue to keep under review whether the mechanisation of the Gates should be pursued as part of a later phase of the project, if the MPS believe that the refurbishment work has not been successful in considerably

improving the manoeuvrability/ease of operation. They will continue to discuss this question with the MPS.

5. As the Chief Coroner's report recognises, those responsible for the project will have to take account of a range of considerations in the design and construction of the entrances. There are advantages and disadvantages in mechanisation, and particular concerns that have been raised are ready operation when motors fail, and the speed of closing in emergency situations. The Parliamentary Authorities retain an open mind on this question.
6. Advice has already been sought on this issue from the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, who are also part of the Parliamentary Security Director's 'Advisory Panel on Protective Parliamentary Security' (APPPS); which was established after the Sir Jon Murphy review and which is regularly consulted on physical security plans. Other members of that Panel include the Home Office and Metropolitan Police.
7. To further reinforce the position, Mr Hepburn has issued a formal instruction that the mechanisation of the gates is to be considered in the course of the project.

### **Matter of Concern 13**

8. The suggestion is that consideration be given to an external security reviewer being involved in approval of project plans from a security perspective, before any irreversible steps are taken. Again, the Parliamentary Authorities agree; this has been the approach adopted in the New Palace Yard project, and will continue to be so.
9. The Parliamentary Authorities can confirm that external reviewers have already been extensively involved in the New Palace Yard project, and will continue to be involved. The Security programme as a whole undergoes a formal Gateway review process (based on three independent expert reviewers visiting Parliament to assess progress). The first review took place in January 2018 and the next one is taking place this month (February 2019). In addition to this Sir Jon Murphy has been invited back later this year to carry out a further independent assessment of the progress of the physical security

projects within the Security Programme. The mitigations that each project will be putting in place are discussed with the members of the APPPS, described above.

**Note on Matter of Concern 8**

10. This was principally directed towards the Metropolitan Police Service, with the suggestion that the MPS, with the Parliamentary Authorities, reviews the adequacy of training to ensure that it involves AFOs, unarmed officers and security officers and their co-ordination. The Parliamentary Authorities can confirm that the Parliamentary Security Department liaises regularly with police colleagues and has the opportunity to comment and make suggestions about the training provided to officers working on the Parliamentary Estate. This close working relationship will continue into the future.

**SAIRA SALIMI**  
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15 February 2019