

## **BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY**

---

### **Third Witness Statement of Ms Anna Marie Pincus**

---

I provide this statement in response to a request from the Chair received by my solicitors on 20 December 2021. I make it to correct oral evidence I provided to the Inquiry on 9 December 2021.

I, Anna Marie Pincus, Director of Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group, The Orchard, 12 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD, will say as follows:

1. I am the Director of Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (“GDWG”).
2. I gave oral evidence to the Inquiry on 9 December 2021. At the end of my evidence the Chair asked whether in my role as safeguarding lead now, I ever get invited to the Safer Custody Management or Safer Community Management meetings with G4S (now Serco) and whether anyone in my organisation is invited or has been invited historically. I replied in the negative.
3. On the morning after giving my evidence I remembered that in early 2020 I had been invited by the Home Office to attend a Brook House Safer Community meeting. Due to illness I had been unable to attend.
4. I have checked my emails which show that shortly after I attended a meeting with Phil Riley of the Home Office on 9 January 2020, I was invited by email from Ian Castle of the Home Office, to attend the next Safer Community meeting which was to be held on Wednesday 29 January 2020. In the event I was unable to attend the meeting due to illness and sent an email to Mr Castle to explain and apologise. I was not invited to

further meetings and did not follow this up as the national lockdown followed and thereafter government guidance was for staff to work from home.

5. I contacted my solicitor first thing on the morning of 10 December 2021, the day after I gave my evidence, to explain what I had remembered. I understand that my counsel mentioned this to Mr Paul Livingston, one of the Counsel to the Inquiry team, on the morning of 10 December. On 14 December 2021 my solicitors wrote to the Solicitor to the Inquiry to explain my mistake. I apologise for this mistake which arose because, having not attended the meeting, it did not come to mind when the Chair asked the question.
6. I would add that after I gave my evidence on 10 December 2021, I had a meeting with Mr Dan Haughton, Assistant Director of Safeguarding of Serco at Gatwick IRC, on 16 December 2021, during which he said that GDWG would be invited by Serco to Safer Community Meetings. He also indicated that Serco would enable GDWG to hold drop-in or surgery sessions in Brook House in the library or outside the gym and that Serco would like to explore GDWG staff having clearance to have keys to come on site at Brook House without booked slots in the way that the Samaritans have done in the past. He explained that for these changes to happen GDWG staff would be expected to attend a 3-day training session to cover matters such as health and safety, security, fire regulations and information on ACDT. He proposed that there would be a memorandum of understanding ('MOU') between Serco and GDWG to cover these matters and that he would send me a draft MOU. He indicated that Serco are keen to develop an open relationship with GDWG that will be a different experience to that we have had with other providers.
7. At my request Mr Haughton also agreed to look into the possibility of GDWG volunteer visitors having frequent visitor passes so that they do not have to go through the process of having their photo taken at every visit.
8. A copy of my notes of the meeting is exhibited as 'AMP1' to this statement.

9. Since the meeting Mr Haughton has sent a draft MOU which GDWG are considering.
10. Being able to hold drop-in sessions further into the centre will enable detained people to meet GDWG staff more easily. This will be of particular help to more vulnerable detained people, and those who do not speak English, for whom the current arrangements provide a barrier to our services. GDWG's attendance at Safer Community Meetings should enable us to better communicate to Serco our concerns about the welfare of detained people. A faster check-in process for Volunteer Visitors would improve their experience of visiting detained people and free up time for reception detention staff to focus on checking in friends and family of detained people so that their visits are not delayed.
11. Whilst the proposals are very welcome and should have a positive impact, I note that they are offered under the spotlight of the Inquiry. It is important to GDWG that the issue of our access to detained people remains an issue for consideration by the Inquiry and is part of the recommendations made in the Chair's report.

Statement of Truth	
<p>I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.</p> <p>I am content for this witness statement to form part of the evidence before the Brook House Inquiry and to be published on the Inquiry's website.</p>	
Name	Anna Marie Pincus
Signature	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>Signature</b></div>
Date	06/01/2022