Thank you for your letter of 13 July, setting out the latest position on the Inquiry, and your expectations about the timing for submitting the report to me.

I recognise the efforts the Inquiry is making in its important task and very much hope that it will be possible to meet this new timetable.

I was sorry to learn of Martin Gilbert’s illness. Like you, I hope his recovery will continue and that he may be able to rejoin the Inquiry.

I am content for you to publish this letter alongside yours to me.

I am copying this letter to Sir Jeremy Heywood.

The Right Honourable Sir John Chilcot GCB