



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Maria Caulfield  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy*

*39 Victoria Street  
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Lady Justice Thirlwall

2 October 2023

Dear Lady Justice Thirlwall,

### **APPOINTMENT AS CHAIR TO THE THIRLWALL INQUIRY**

I am writing to confirm the terms of your appointment as Chair of the Thirlwall Inquiry ("the Inquiry"). The Inquiry will be held under the Inquiries Act 2005 ("the Act") and will be an Inquiry for which the Ministers are responsible, as referred to in section 28 of the Act.

This letter and associated schedule, serves as the written instrument of your appointment as Chair to the Inquiry pursuant to section 4(1) of the Act and also confirms that the formal setting-up date for the purposes of section 5(1)(a) of the Act was 4 September 2023. The Schedule to this letter sets out matters which have been discussed and agreed with you.

This letter confirms your appointment as Chair. Your appointment commenced on 4 September 2023. Your appointment will end when the Inquiry comes to an end, or on such an earlier date as may be determined in accordance with section 12 of the Act. You will wish to note the terms of section 12. I can reaffirm that I will not be appointing any additional members to the Inquiry Panel at this stage.

The Act sets out various statutory powers and duties which Ministers have in relation to the Inquiry. The Chair too has statutory powers and duties under the Act.

You undertake that, whilst you are Chair, you will continue to uphold the obligations, qualities, and standards of judicial appointments.

I should be grateful if you would confirm in writing your willingness to accept this appointment by signing and dating the attached terms of appointment. A copy of the terms is attached for your retention.

I am grateful for the commitment you have shown in agreeing to this appointment.

Kind regards,

**MARIA CAULFIELD MP  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND  
WOMEN'S HEALTH STRATEGY**