



## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT**

Today my open report into the death of Jalal Uddin is published and laid before Parliament.

Jalal Uddin was a kind, courteous and scholarly man, a teacher of Islam whose personal integrity inspired the esteem of his fellow Muslims. Tragically, that esteem was not shared by Mohammed Kadir and Mohammed Syeedy, two violent extremists who espoused the Salafist ideology of Islamic State. On 18 February 2016, in an act of terrorism designed to intimidate those members of the public who follow the Muslim faith, they brutally murdered Mr Uddin.

The crime was carefully planned. Kadir clubbed Mr Uddin to death with a hammer or similar implement. Syeedy provided the murder weapon and drove Kadir to and from the scene of the killing. The reason the two men killed Mr Uddin was that he practised a form of healing, known as ruqyah, which they regarded as blasphemous. They wished to convey to others a strong message that such practices would not be tolerated.

Kadir fled from the UK before he could be arrested, probably to join the forces of Islamic State in Syria. His whereabouts – assuming he is still alive – remain unknown. Syeedy was convicted of Mr Uddin's murder and is now serving a sentence of life imprisonment.

The procedural pre-history of this Inquiry, which began as an inquest, is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. I was nominated as coroner in November 2021. Having gathered and considered the available evidence, I wrote to the then Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Suella Braverman KC MP, on 7 November 2022, requesting that she cause an inquiry to be held pursuant to section 1 of the Inquiries Act 2005. My reason for making that request was that the relevant evidence included a significant body of sensitive material, public disclosure of which would create a real risk of harm to an important public interest, namely national security. Unlike an inquest, a statutory inquiry may lawfully receive such material in restricted-access ('closed') hearings, enabling all the relevant evidence to be considered without harm to the public interest.

The Home Secretary in due course granted my request and, on 9 November 2023, appointed me to chair this Inquiry.

During its open and closed evidential hearings, completed in September last year, the Inquiry considered a large volume of witness statements and other documentary material and heard oral evidence from a significant number of witnesses, including so-called 'corporate' witnesses. I share the view of Sir John Saunders (chairman of the Manchester Arena Inquiry) that the proper conduct of a full, fair and fearless investigation of this kind requires close analysis of the evidence of individual frontline participants. For that reason, while grateful for the assistance provided by corporate witnesses, I have insisted upon hearing and interrogating the evidence of the frontline staff who were directly involved in taking decisions and actions at the material time.

The need to avoid compromising national security means that I have had to cover the totality of the evidence provided to the Inquiry in a separate closed report. While my open report does not, of course, include reference to any material that cannot be disclosed, I have taken care to provide as much relevant factual detail – and as full an explanation of my conclusions and reasoning – as I can properly make public.

Kadir was known to Counter Terrorism Police at the time of Mr Uddin's murder. By the end of October 2015, he had been assessed to be a person of high risk and significant concern. Although the need for a targeted police investigation into his activities had been recognised by 10 December 2015, the steps necessary to set up such an investigation, including the appointment of a Senior Investigating Officer to head it, were not taken. In summary, my conclusion is that this failure, the detailed consequences of which I have traced in my closed report, amounted to a serious blunder that led to the loss of two opportunities to detect or disrupt the activities of Kadir and Syeedy before Mr Uddin was murdered.

I should like to thank all those who have helped the Inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference. Above all, I extend my condolences to Mr Uddin's family and friends.

**His Honour Thomas Teague KC**  
**Chairman of the Inquiry into the death of Jalal Uddin**