

## **REVIEW OPENS NEW DEDICATED PHONELINE AND EXPECTS TO REPORT TO THE BBC BY JULY**

### **Work of the review to date**

Since October last year I have been receiving evidence about the conduct of Tim Westwood, BBC knowledge of any concerns about Tim Westwood's conduct, and the BBC's response to any concerns that were known. As well as hearing (orally and in writing) from people who responded to my calls for evidence in October and November last year, I have identified people who I believe may have relevant information and invited them to meet me. That process continues and includes interviewing those who held key roles within the BBC at the relevant time. So far I have interviewed a significant number of people and my team has conducted searches on over 50,000 BBC documents we have requested.

### **Introduction of Dedicated Phone Line**

Many Black women have already publicly shared information and I want to make every effort to ensure that they, and others in a similar position, can contribute evidence to the review. I have recently been provided with material suggesting that there are people who want to contribute to the review by calling me, or members of the Linklaters review team, rather than having to email to make an appointment to speak. I am very grateful for the information which has been provided and which has assisted me in deciding how to move forward.

I have been working since November 2022 with Jahnine Davis, who is a safeguarding professional with particular expertise in violence against women and girls and safeguarding Black children. Jahnine has been available to attend meetings with me and has done so. I have found her help to be invaluable. We have discussed participation in the review and think that some people might prefer to speak directly to Jahnine rather than having to arrange a meeting with me, at which she would be present. We have therefore set up a dedicated phone line which will allow people to contact Jahnine directly, or to speak to me if they wish.

The phone line will be open until Friday 19 May 2023. Either Jahnine or I will be available to speak during the working day, and Jahnine will also be available on certain evenings. The windows during which Jahnine will be available on the phonenumber for the next two weeks are set out below. There will be a 24/7 answering system to take messages if we are unavailable or if you would prefer to simply leave recorded evidence on the machine.

### **Other ways to contribute - questionnaire**

Many people have already contacted me and the solicitors to the review directly by email. You can continue to do (on the addresses below) and we will be happy to arrange a conversation or meeting. If you would prefer not to meet but have information to provide, you can provide information in writing. We have put together a list of questions related to the main areas we are focussing on at this point. Even if you can only answer a few of them, we would like to hear from you.

The list is [available here](#) to view or download. If you can answer any of these questions, please do get in touch by email (details below) or leave a message on the phone line answering system.

### **Some questions addressed**

The process I have described above is intended to facilitate participation from people who want to contribute to the review but have felt unable to do so. I understand that there are many reasons why people may not want to contribute and would like to address a couple of concerns which have been brought to my attention.

The first is independence. I have been appointed to conduct this review because I am independent. It is my responsibility to find out, and report on, any concerns the BBC may have known about and how it responded to any such concerns. I take that responsibility very seriously, which is why I am opening this further period during which people who may have information relevant to some very serious allegations will be able to come forward.

Some people have asked what is the purpose of contributing to this review. Your evidence will help me establish whether the BBC knew of concerns and responded appropriately, and could be an important part of the BBC assessing and developing the way it responds to allegations or concerns in the future. Some people have pointed out that my Terms of Reference say that I will not make recommendations and have questioned what the BBC will do with my report. The BBC Board has committed to publishing and fully responding to the report and to taking action where there are lessons to be learnt.

### **Timing**

Finally, I have been asked when I expect the review to conclude. The answer is that I expect to report to the BBC in late June or early July 2023. I appreciate that this is later than many would have hoped. The additional time is necessary for a thorough review of documents and information which we continue to receive and will allow a reasonable period to consider any new contributions which are made through the phone line.

If there are other concerns, or questions, which anyone wants to raise please do continue to contact me, Linklaters, or Jahnine using the details set out below.

Key details:

Dedicated phone line: **08000 121 838**

Jahnine Davis will be available to speak at the following times during the first two weeks. Updates for the following weeks will be provided on the answering system:

Week commencing 17 April 2023:

Thursday, 20 April from 10:00 to 13:00

Friday, 21 April from 17:00 to 20:00

Week commencing 24 April 2023:

Monday, 24 April from 17:00 to 20:00

Wednesday, 26 April from 12:00 to 15:00

Thursday, 27 April from 17:00 to 20:00

Friday, 28 April from 10:00 to 15:00

If these times do not suit you, and in particular if you want to speak to either me or Jahnine at a weekend, we can arrange this. Please just leave a message on the answerphone providing some times which suit you and we will do our best to fit in with them.

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