Department of Health & Social Care

From Alison McGovern MP
Minister of State for Social Care

39 Victoria Street
London
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Layla Moran MP

By email only: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

17 September 2026

Dear Layla,

I am writing to inform you that the Government has appointed His Honour Judge Potter as Chair of the Statutory Public Inquiry into Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust. This represents an important milestone in the establishment of the Inquiry.

The Chair will lead the Inquiry independently, determine how it carries out its work, and ensure that the experiences and perspectives of those affected are sensitively heard and considered throughout the process.

His Honour Judge Potter brings a wealth of experience as a retired Circuit Judge and former Deputy Judge of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). He has over forty years' experience in public service, judicial leadership, governance, the administration of justice and inquiries. I have every confidence that the Chair will carry out his role with professionalism and sensitivity to those affected by the matters under investigation.

I recognise this announcement will be significant for many people, particularly the families, carers and loved ones whose lives have been profoundly affected by the issues that are the focus of the Inquiry. I would like to acknowledge the courage and determination they have shown in helping to bring about this important step.

The Inquiry will formally commence on Monday 21 September 2026. The Inquiry’s work will now be a matter for the Judge. I will ensure that the Inquiry has the resources it needs to carry out this important work and to continue to support the families.

Over the coming months, the Chair will begin establishing the Inquiry's operating arrangements and consulting on its Terms of Reference. To support this work, the Chair and his team will engage with those affected and other interested stakeholders. Further information about the Inquiry's work, including opportunities to participate and provide evidence, will be shared in due course.

I know His Honour Judge Potter and his team will undertake the Inquiry thoroughly and as swiftly as possible.

If you or your constituents have any questions on the Inquiry, please contact the Inquiry Secretariat at contact@tewv.independent-inquiry.uk

Yours sincerely,

ALISON MCGOVERN

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL CARE