Witness Name: Andy Street

Statement No: 1

Exhibits: AS/1-INQ000116272 to

AS/30-INQ000116278

Dated: 13/06/2023

UK COVID 19 INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDY STREET

- I, Andy Street, of Centro House, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3SD will say as follows:
 - 1. I make this witness statement in response to a Rule 9 request to provide evidence for module 2 of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry.
 - 2. The matters contained in this statement are either within my personal knowledge or derived from records maintained by the West Midlands Combined Authority to which I have access, with which I am familiar, and which I believe to be accurate.
 - 3. This statement covers the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 May 2022 except where expressly stated otherwise.
 - 4. I received a draft Rule 9 request dated 20 January 2023, asking me to confine my evidence and related documents to the role I played as Mayor to support the core political and administrative decision-making process in relation to decisions taken by the Prime Minister/No 10, Cabinet and Cabinet Committees (including Ministerial Implementation Groups), and Lead Government Departments. I confirm that I have done so except when invited by the questions asked of me to comment more widely. The sub-headings used in this statement are those set out in the Rule 9 request, and I have responded to the questions that I was asked in this statement. I amended this statement in June 2023 to address amendments requested to the format and production of exhibits.

A. The Mayor of the West Midlands role, functions and responsibilities

- 5. I am asked to provide a brief overview of my role as the Mayor of the West Midlands, and the role of the Mayor within the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 6. I was elected Mayor of the West Midlands in 2017, and I represent about 2.8million people in Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. My responsibilities include:
 - Lobbying on behalf of the region with central Government and private companies to win investment
 - Driving economic growth in the region
 - Improving and overseeing our transport network, including chairing the West Midlands Rail Executive
 - Helping to increase housebuilding and unlock more employment land in the region
 - Tackling unemployment and developing jobseekers' skills
 - Helping to design out homelessness
 - Addressing the ongoing climate emergency
 - Improving relationships between different parts of the community in the region
 - Working with the business community to increase economic output
- 7. My role within the West Midlands Combined Authority is to Chair the Board of the Combined Authority and help to lead and oversee it in a non-executive capacity.
- 8. The individuals who carried out specific organisational roles for me as Mayor relevant to the response to the Covid pandemic are:
 - a. Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive (until November 2021)
 - b. Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive (from November 2021)
 - c. Sean Russell. Covid-19 lead WMCA
 - d. Simon Wren, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs, then Director of Communications (until 12th October 2020)
 - e. Fran Collingham, Interim Director of Communications, then Communications Lead (from 8th October 2020 to 31st May 2021)
 - f. Siobhan Bassford, Head of Strategic Communications, then Operational Director of Communications (from 27th April 2021)
 - g. Jack Averty, Mayor's Press Officer
 - h. Chris Scott, Mayor's Chief of Staff
 - i. Meera Sonecha, Senior Policy Advisor, then Mayor's Acting Chief of Staff
 - j. Alex Reid, Mayoral Policy Advisor
 - k. Gareth Bradford, Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration

To my knowledge, none of these individuals was a member of a public health committee or scientific body in the UK, including SAGE. Sue Ibbotson, Regional Director at the Health Protection Agency, and Clive Wright, the Covid 19 Regional Convenor for the West Midlands, were heavily involved with the Combined Authority at the time, and thus I had a lot of interaction with them, but neither were carrying out a specific organisational role for me as Mayor.

- 9. It is worth noting the extent of the responsibilities of the West Midlands Combined Authority. There is no devolved responsibility either for Health, Fire & Rescue, or the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. All these functions are separate from the West Midlands Combined Authority and I therefore have no official role in these areas. It is also worth noting that the formal powers and responsibilities in relation to Covid-19 regulations and legislation were with the constituent authorities that make up the Combined Authority, not with the Combined Authority itself.
- 10. As Mayor of the West Midlands, I had no formal role, functions or responsibilities in relation to the response to Covid-19 in the West Midlands. However, as I was the person with the most extensive network of contacts in central government, I was heavily involved in unofficial liaison with the government on behalf of the region. I played an ambassadorial role as the face and voice of the region. I also took a public facing role in amplifying and communicating the public health messages from government.
- 11. I should also say that as Mayor I chair the Board of the Combined Authority, which did have a formal role in relation to the response to Covid-19 in the West Midlands in respect of its responsibility for transport provision. This particularly involved the issues of social distancing and face coverings. The greater part of the response work was carried out by officers of the Combined Authority, but I was involved in decision making through the Board.

B. Liaison and Communication with the UK government

- 12.1 am asked to provide a high-level summary of my working relationship with those listed below with regards to emergency measures taken in relation to Covid-19 through the period 1 January 2020 to 30 May 2022.
 - a. Office of the Chief Medical Officer
 - b. UKHSA or Public Health England
 - c. Secretary of State for Health or other ministers
 - d. Senior civil servants in UK government

As I had no formal role in the response to Covid-19, I had no formal involvement with any of these people or offices. I had a good working relationship with Clive Wright as regional Convenor for the West Midlands, and with Sue Ibbotson from Public Health England. I was in regular dialogue with ministers and civil servants on matters relevant to the region. Together with the West Midlands MPs I met with Matt Hancock, Secretary of state for Health, on Zoom calls, on 23 and 26 October 2020, to discuss issues relevant to the region, and ask questions. There were regular meetings of the Local Resilience Forum, which were attended by Clive wright and the Chief Executive of the WMCA.

- 13. I first became aware of Covid-19 in my official capacity around the second week in January 2020. It was a Friday afternoon and I received a telephone call from Sue Ibbotson, who at the time was the Director of Public Health England for the West Midlands. I remember the call very clearly because it was a significant telephone call. There was another person on the call who I believe, from recollection, may have been Deborah Cadman who at the time was the Chief Executive of the combined authority. Sue told me that there was "this thing in China, we hope that it can be contained in China, but if it cannot, it could be extremely serious". I asked her what she meant by that, and she said that it could be like a 'flu of epidemic proportions. I immediately recognised what she meant, because in my time as Managing Director of John Lewis Plc this type of epidemic had been at the top of our corporate risk register. I recall that I did not have to do anything in relation to that call that day, it was purely for information. In fact I never had an official role for Covid-19 as all the statutory responsibilities sat with the local authorities, not the combined authority.
- 14. I honestly cannot remember the detail of what happened after I became aware of Covid-19, but I do specifically recall that there were two things that struck me as significant. The first was a conversation I had with Prof David Rosser who at the time was Chief Executive of University Hospitals Birmingham. I recall him telling me, in around February or early March, that if the situation became more serious his clinicians would have to make choices as to who they should treat, and that non-Covid patients could face delays in treatment because of the pressure of treating Covid patients. It struck me as there was always an assumption if someone was ill, they would get the treatment they needed from the NHS, and Dave Rosser was now telling me that this may not be the case, and he was worried about the moral responsibility of those decisions. This was the point when it struck me how serious the situation was.
- 15. The second event I distinctly remember was a Friday afternoon briefing, around three weeks before the first lockdown. We had started to have weekly meetings to keep the media close and ensure they had the access and information they needed to report on events accurately. At this particular briefing there was a huge amount of interest from journalists and senior figures attended the meeting. There had been a particular hotspot of Covid cases, and some deaths, in Wolverhampton, and we were trying to identify what the issues were that would cause that. I realised at this point we were in totally uncharted territory, and the afternoon ended with live TV crews reporting from the combined authority's office.
- 16.1 do not recall specifically being instructed to do anything by central government, as I said previously, I had no statutory role. However as I started to get my brain around the horror of the situation I realised there was a role I could play as a regional convenor and spokesperson, and I stepped into that space.
- 17.1 cannot properly assess whether the UK Government appreciated the seriousness of the threat of Covid-19 at this stage and was making the

necessary preparations to respond. Looking back now, I recall that it appeared that all of us were trying to work out together what we should do and how we should respond. With the benefit of hindsight it is clear now that some things, that in a perfect world could have been better planned for, were not, PPE being an example. I spent many hours in discussions prior to the first lockdown about PPE, about whether we could order it ourselves, about where it could be sourced, and so on. It did not occur to me at the time that this was wrong, and the supply chain should have been better organised, because we were in such unchartered territory.

- 18.1 have a clear recollection that the Government's strategy at this time was containment. I recall that some people were advocating "herd-immunity" but I clearly recall that this was discounted by the Government in favour of containment.
- 19. Neither I nor, as far as I am aware, my representatives, either attended or were invited to attend any bodies or committees formed by the UK Government to respond to Covid-19.
- 20. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic I met regularly with the 'M9', now 'M10', group of Metro Mayors from around the country. The purpose of these meetings was to share and receive updates they were not a forum for policymaking. On occasion these meetings would be attended by Ministers to provide updates.
- 21. I did not contribute to and was not invited to contribute to any Parliamentary Select Committees to discuss Covid-19 or the imposition, non-imposition, amendment or end use of NPIs. As I did not attend any meetings of this type, I have no evidence to offer in respect of the series of questions I have been asked about how these meetings were conducted and recorded.
- 22. I was not part of any informal communication with government for example through WhatsApp groups. Nor did I have any private conversations with Ministers in relation to significant decisions of the UK government.
- 23.1 did receive a telephone call from Michael Gove on 10 April 2020, when the graphs that were to be presented at the daily briefing on television that evening showed the West Midlands region as having the highest rate of infection. Michael Gove rang me to discuss and sense check what he would say about this in the evening briefing.
- **24.** There was steady written correspondence throughout the pandemic about practical matters that affected the West Midlands. I have disclosed copies of the correspondence listed in the index of documents appended to this statement, and I give a brief summary of this correspondence below:
 - a. On 16/04/2020 I wrote to Luke Hall, Minister for Homelessness, on the subject of supporting homeless people during the pandemic. My team's records indicate that a response was received on 29/04/2020, although at the time of writing we are unable to trace either the original letter or the response.

- b. On 23.04.20 I wrote to Rishi Sunak at the Treasury thanking him for continued support for businesses and referencing the reflections of the Economic Impact Group that I chaired, on a full coverage of measures and highlighting gaps I hoped to see addressed. I reassured central government that regional teams were turning their collective thoughts to how they could play their full part in economic recovery. I produce exhibit AS/1-INQ000116272.
- c. On 11.05.20 I wrote to Caroline Dinenage, MP, who was the Minister for Heritage & Tourism. I requested that she ask the Chancellor to extend the furlough scheme for cultural organisations until all stages of lockdown were eased. I used Birmingham Museums Trust as an example of the impact of lockdown and asked for her help with representations to the Chancellor on the financial sustainability of the cultural sector. I produce exhibit AS/2-INQ000116282.
- d. On 12.05.20 I wrote to Baroness Vere of Norbiton who was Minister for Roads Buses and Places to say that I appreciated support and funding for the Covid-19 light rail support, but although welcome, the funding was insufficient to cover the cost of operating the system. I asked for consideration for an increased level of funding. I produce exhibit AS/3-INQ000116280.
- e. On 15.05.20 I wrote to Steve Barclay at HM Treasury, welcoming the package of support that had been put in place for universities, and setting out why I considered them to be so important for the region. I asked the government to consider how to enable the universities to play a full part in the economic recovery of the region and highlighted some ideas. I also requested a meeting with some of the universities' vice chancellors and central government, to discuss what this might look like in practice. No response was received. I produce exhibit **AS/4-INQ000116284**.
- f. On 15.05.20 I wrote to Rishi Sunak, seeking his ongoing support for the West Midlands economic recovery. I shared with him the reflections of the regional Economic Impact Group that I chaired, for his consideration in preparation for the revamped scheme that was to be introduced in August. I produce exhibit AS/5-INQ000116274. I received a response dated 21.08.20 from Oliver Dowden MP saying that it was heartening to see the WMCA take a positive step forward in recovery in planning a pragmatic portfolio of capital projects. It said further dialogue would be welcomed. I produce exhibit AS/6-INQ000116290.
- g. On 20.05.20 I wrote to Oliver Dowden, requesting further support for the Tourism, hospitality and cultural sectors, in particular about the job retention scheme and safe reopening in due course. This was sent jointly by me, Fiona Allen, Chair of West Midlands Tourism Board and CEO of Birmingham Hippodrome, and Martin Sutherland, West Midlands Cultural

Board and CEO of Coventry City of Culture 2021. produce exhibit **AS/7-INQ000116271.**

I received a response dated 03.08.20 from Nigel Huddleston MP, DCMS recognising the difficult circumstances for the tourism and hospitality industry, saying they were continuing to listen to concerns and monitor the impacts, referring also to the recent cut in VAT. I produce exhibit **AS/8-INQ000116291.**

- h. On 03.06.20 I wrote to Gavin Williamson who was Secretary of State for Education. I set out that skills were at the heart of our regional economy, and that I was working closely with the further education colleges who were planning to re-open with reduce capacity in June. I took the opportunity to ask if we could work collaboratively with the department to do all that we could to lead and support regional economic recovery and best align national and regional activity. I produce exhibit AS/9-INQ000116275.
- i. On 16.06.20 I wrote jointly with Nick Barton Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport, to the Home Secretary Priti Patel, MP about the government's quarantine policy. We asked for aviation quarantine rules to be reconsidered, because they were having a long-term detrimental effect on the West Midlands economy and arguing that the public health outcomes were equally achievable by other measures. I produce exhibit AS/10-INQ000116281.

We received a response dated 28.08.20 from Kelly Tolhurst MP explaining the government's approach and the reasons for the restrictions. I produce exhibit **AS/11 -INQ000116289**.

- j. On 12.08.20 I wrote to Alok Sharma, MP at BEIS to thank him for the creation of the business grants programme that was due to close on 28.08.20. I asked him to consider extending support for certain categories of business that either must remain closed legally, or who were allowed to open but could not do because of social distancing requirements. I produce exhibit AS/12-INQ000116283.
- k. On 28.08.20 I received a response from Amanda Solloway MP from BEIS to a letter I had written to the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage regarding wedding receptions. Unfortunately my original letter cannot be traced, but the response acknowledged the importance of wedding receptions, but confirmed the restrictions and the reasons for them. I produce exhibit AS/13-INQ000116288.
- I. On 09.10.20 I wrote to Rishi Sunak at the Treasury about the Winter Economic Plan and support for places with local restrictions. I referred to a previous invitation to DCMS to spearhead economic recovery planning and outlining efforts to do so. I made it clear that it was now urgent to have a package of support for those facing local restrictions. On 13th October 2020 I wrote a further letter to Rishi Sunak following the announcement

- that restrictions had been increased in the West Midlands, seeking his reassurance on support for the West Midlands as a matter of urgency. I produce exhibit AS/14-INQ000116265
- m. On 04.11.20 I wrote to Matt Hancock at DHSC following discussions with a coalition of health charities, about concerns regarding shielding for clinically vulnerable groups, following an announcement of a second national lockdown which was likely to be particularly challenging for this group. I asked him for further practical and financial support for this group. I produce exhibit AS/15 -INQ000116273. I received a response dated 12.03.21 from Jo Churchill MP, giving further clarification of shielding guidance. I produce exhibit AS/16-INQ000116287
- n. On 06.11.20 I wrote to Steve Barclay at HM Treasury about support for the events and conference/ exhibitions business which is critical to our economy in the West Midlands. I produce exhibit AS/17-INQ000116276. I had a response from Nigel Huddlestone, MP, DCMS dated 29.01.21. This confirmed that the government was looking into how to reopen larger business events as soon as it was safe to do so and was aware of the significant challenges facing the business events industry. I produce exhibit AS/18-INQ000116292
- On 30.11.20 I wrote to Rishi Sunak to set out the difficulties faced by the hospitality sector under tier 3 restrictions, asking for further clarity on tiering decisions, and enhanced support for this sector. I produce exhibit AS/19-INQ000116277
- p. On 18.12.20 I wrote jointly with Prof David Rosser of University Hospital Birmingham to Matt Hancock at the Department for Health & Social Care, setting out our concerns in relation to PPE and in particular risk of imminent redundancies in PPE manufacturing businesses in our region. I produce exhibit AS/20-INQ000116268. A response dated 06.01.01 was received from Matt Hancock regarding manufacturing of PPE in our region, confirming the government's commitment to centralised procurement and that there was no prospect of a further PPE procurement in the immediate future. I produce exhibit AS/21-INQ000116264
- q. On 23.12.20 I wrote to Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in support of aerospace manufacturing supply chains, setting out ideas coming out of a roundtable I had chaired to explore issues affecting aerospace manufacturing SMEs and how best to support their recovery and levelling up, I also requested additional government support for these industries. I produce exhibit AS/22-INQ000116269
- r. On 28.01.21 I wrote to the Prime Minster Boris Johnson setting out our "call to action" and pinpointing three issues for government action now to lessen the enduring economic damage and boost our ability to recover from this crisis. I produce exhibit AS/23-INQ000116286. I received a

- response dated 27.03.21 from 10 Downing Street generally setting our continued support, specifically referring to additional funding announced for National Skills funding, and encouraging us to join consortiums to deliver bootcamps. I produce exhibit **AS/24-INQ000116285**.
- s. On 29/01/2021 I wrote to Matt Hancock MP, at the DHSC, on the subject of quarantine hotels. My records suggest that we received a response on 16/03/2021.
- t. On 21.04.21 I received correspondence from Matt Hancock DHSC about targeted local surge testing in various areas to suppress the C-19 South Africa variant found in Birmingham. I produce exhibit AS/25-INQ000116266. A subsequent letter dated 23.04.21 on the same subject changed the start date of the testing to 23.04.21. I produce exhibit AS/26-INQ000116267.
- u. On 28.05.21 I wrote to Steve Barclay, requesting that the same support be provided to the West Midlands Metro as was being provided to bus and heavy rail, and TFL, until patronage levels returned to pre-pandemic levels. I produce exhibit AS/27-INQ000116270. I had a response dated 01.07.21 confirming that support would be extended for 4 weeks and commenting on ongoing work between our officials and the Department of Transport on recovery plans to increase patronage to ensure financial sustainability of the Metro. I produce exhibit AS/28-INQ000116263.
- v. On 30.06.21 I wrote to John Glen MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, about the planned closure of the Trade Credit Reinsurance Scheme. I explained the adverse effect that this would have on businesses and their recovery, and I requested a meeting to discuss this further. I produce exhibit AS/29-INQ00011116279.

On 20.12.21 I wrote to Rishi Sunak who was Chancellor of the Exchequer, thanking him for the package of support for businesses in the wake of the Omicron variant and asking him to consider additional support for the hospitality sector. I produce exhibit **AS/30-INQ000116278.**

C. West Midlands Restrictions

25. When there were discussions taking place about tiering for the region, a series of semi-formal calls were set up between me and the local authority leaders. Matt Hancock, Robert Jenrick, and other Ministers attended these from time to time. There are no papers from these meetings. I also had calls with Matt Hancock who contacted me for information about the situation in Birmingham and the region. I recall that this was when Birmingham was likely to be moved into tier 3, but in fact it never did because another national lockdown was called.

- 26. I was not formally consulted prior to the government's decisions to impose or lift local restrictions or local lockdown, but there were sometimes informal conversations with the secretary of state before formal decisions were made.
- 27. The medical or scientific data that informed my discussions with the UK Government about the appropriate tier for the region was the Public Health England data. Sean Russell as the WMCA's Covid19 Lead produced a daily "evening tactical note" detailing the local infection rates of the region as a whole, and of the areas of each of the authorities comprising the Combined Authority geographical area.
- 28. The pandemic and the restrictions imposed had a significant effect on the economy of the West Midlands region. I could see that and my thoughts turned to recovery as early as Summer 2020. I was in regular correspondence with the government to try to minimise the damage caused to the industries that had made us grow faster prior to the pandemic, including hospitality, conferencing and manufacturing.

D. Public health communications and public confidence

- **29.** A very important tool for public health messaging during this period was a series of weekly Covid-19 briefings, which were held on Fridays starting from 20 March 2020.
- 30. I was Chair of these meetings, which were also attended by a local authority representative, usually including a councillor from Birmingham City Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of West Midlands Police. Public Health England, Clive Wright, and a hospital trust representative were also in attendance. All local news outlets were invited to these briefings. All participants gave an update on their specialist area including a run through of the latest data with Clive and there was an opportunity for the media to ask questions on behalf of the public.
- **31.** I also used my social media accounts extensively to spread the public health message, including Twitter, Linked In and Facebook.
- **32.** The UK government did not provide any specific guidance to me about public health communications over the course of the pandemic, but they did produce communications materials, which were used by me and the WMCA.
- **33.** Neither I nor my representatives were, to my knowledge, involved in any discussions with the Government to develop or make use of public health campaigns.
- 34. I am asked to assess the success or otherwise of the public health messaging. I would say that the messaging around the first lockdown worked incredibly well, because it was very clear what was required. The messaging after that stage worked less well because it was more "grey" and lacking in that same level of clarity.

- **35.** I did not consider that there was any significant event or incident that had a material impact on the maintenance of public confidence. It would be easy to say that the incident involving Dominic Cummings apparently breaching lockdown rules did so, but I never heard that it did. The other area that subsequently caused public reaction was the series of incidents that became known as "partygate" but that only came out at a much later stage, so I do not think it could have impacted on public confidence at the time.
- **36.** I found that public health messaging generally needed more amplification in its communication, particularly for those for whom English was not their first language. I worked closely with the faith leaders in the region and used them to great effect to amplify the public health messages. The West Midlands is a very diverse area, and I found that I had to step in to work with local communities and their leaders to ensure that public health messaging reached them.
- 37. A particular problem area with public health messaging was around the continued wearing of face coverings on public transport. Once the obligation to wear them was lifted, there was confusion and uncertainty. The government said it was down to the authority to decide whether face coverings were required or not, but we had no authority to mandate this, we could only encourage the continued wearing of face coverings, which did lead to tensions and uncertainty.
- **38.** I was impressed by the responsibility of our local media in the region. They were generally exemplary and responsible, and played a critical role in relaying information including public health messaging.

E. The public health and coronavirus legislation and regulations

- 39. I did not have any role in providing advice to UK government on the public health and coronavirus legislation and regulations that were proposed and enacted, in respect of individuals. I was not consulted by government, nor did I make any recommendations to them about a different approach.
- 40. I did not have any liaison with local police forces, the National Police Chiefs' Council the Crown Prosecution Service, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities or UK Government on the need for local enforcement measures in the West Midlands. At the relevant times the West Midlands still had a separate directly elected Police and crime Commissioner, who would have been responsible for policing and would be expected to have had any such contact. I do not recall being asked to lobby for any local enforcement measures in respect of individuals, in the West Midlands.
- 41. I am asked to identify any key aeras that I considered worked well, or where there were issues, in relation to public health and coronavirus legislation and regulations. I considered that the tiering decisions were illogical. It led to situations where for example houses on one side of a road were in one tier and could go to the pub, and houses on the other side of the road were in a different

- tier and could not. This was difficult for members of the public both to understand and accept.
- 42. I would like to place on record that I was consistently impressed by West Midlands police, and how they interpreted the legislation in the best spirit of British policing. Their approach was to explain the legislation, allow people to make their own decisions, and discourage inappropriate behaviour, and as a consequence compliance in the region was good. I would say that they consistently applied common sense.

F. Lessons learned

- 43.I have already mentioned that when I was Managing Director of John Lewis Plc, a pandemic of this type was the top risk on our risk register. We did not know that it would be Covid, but we planned for a form of epidemic. If it was top of our risk register, I would have expected the risk to be high on the risk register for central government, and for them to have some mitigations in place, particularly a strategy for an adequate supply of PPE and at least the bare bones of a policy. In addition, I would have expected there to have been more consideration in advance of how to deal with the issue of care homes, and admission to and from them with hospitals.
- 44.1 did consider the vaccine roll-out to be successful. I played a key role in communicating that message, by use of social media, and particularly with hard-to-reach communities through faith group leaders. There was a lot of misinformation circulating about vaccines, and I and others worked hard to address that.
- 45. The other general comment I would like to make, is that there was an assumption by central government that it can do everything better than local government. It did not consider how to maximise the contribution that local government could make, for example in sourcing PPE. I have huge sympathy for the government, it is natural in a crisis to take command, and the instinct is towards centralization, but a lesson should be learned to consider how best to use the resources of the whole country including regional and local government organisations.

Statement of Truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Full Name: Andy Street

Signed:

Personal Data

Position: Mayor of West Midlands

Date: 13 June 2023