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### OPENING SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF DION R

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1. Dion is grateful to be granted Core Participant Status. Underpinning Dion's wish to assist the Chair in fulfilling the Inquiry's Terms of Reference is the fact that his brother's actions have caused the most immense pain, anguish and grief to the lives of so many people.
2. The Inquiry has disclosed the statement Dion gave to the police in the aftermath of the attacks.<sup>1</sup> That statement makes plain that Dion was wholly unlike his brother – a thoughtful young man, of good character, studying at University. It is important to note that many of the matters that the Inquiry will examine in the years that followed, occurred at a time when Dion was himself still a child.
3. From Dion's perspective, AR's expulsion from school in October 2019 (and the reasons behind that exclusion) plays an important part in AR becoming progressively more isolated from his friends and family. Dion anticipates that the Inquiry will want to examine the actions of the organisations and agencies who dealt with AR after AR was expelled to consider whether there were any other actions that could have been taken to try and help AR lessen AR's increasing detachment from society.
4. As Dion explained in his police statement, he returned home from University the weekend before the attacks and in that statement, he sets out as best he could his knowledge of what AR was like that weekend and indeed what AR was like in the years preceding the incident. By virtue of his studies and his disability, Dion had limited interaction with his brother but Dion is aware that in addition to police involvement with AR, agencies such as Social Services and CAMHS were also involved with his brother. Dion, like many others, wishes

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<sup>1</sup> MERP001217

the Inquiry to explore whether more could have been done by those agencies to try and assist AR and/or whether they could have intervened in such a way as to have minimised the prospect of the attacks from occurring. To this end, Dion wholeheartedly supports the Inquiry's aim to identify lessons which will minimise the prospect of such harm being caused in the future.

5. Finally, Dion is a wheelchair user and so will not be attending the hearings in person but will follow proceedings remotely. His absence from the hearing room should not however be taken as indicating an indifference to the evidence being called or be taken as any discourtesy to the Chair, Core Participants and the witnesses.

JACQUELINE CAREY KC – 2BR

GEMMA LUDGATE – BURGESS SALMON

5 September 2025