

## THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

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### OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

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1. No words can convey the horror that confronted those who were victims of and witness to the senseless attack that occurred in Southport on the 29 July 2024.
2. On behalf of the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (“**NWAS**”) we wish to begin by expressing our heartfelt and profound condolences to the families and friends of Elsie, Alice and Bebe who so tragically lost their lives as a result of this atrocity. NWAS also wish to extend their deepest sympathies to all those who were so grievously harmed, physically and psychologically, by the horrific events that occurred that day.
3. NWAS deployed multiple resources in response to the attack, including (but not limited to) Paramedics, Senior Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (“**HEMS**”) Doctors and Critical Care Paramedics, British Association for Immediate Care (“**BASICS**”) Doctors, Commanders and National Interagency Liaison Officers (“**NILO**”). Multiple patients were cared for and treated on scene with a number conveyed by NWAS to hospitals across Merseyside and Greater Manchester to receive ongoing care and treatment.

4. The professional personnel who responded to this atrocity are trained and experienced in dealing with emergencies which test their skills and emotions day in day out, but the events of the 29 July 2024 were of an unprecedented scale and have deeply impacted all those who did their very best to assist in the most difficult of circumstances.
5. The commencement of the evidential phase of the Inquiry is a significant milestone. As has been the case from the outset, NWAS continues to be fully committed to supporting the Inquiry in its difficult and important work.
6. All those who responded to this incident have been deeply affected by the events of that day and have reflected on what happened, their experiences and their actions. NWAS as an organisation has done the same and sees this Inquiry as an opportunity for continued learning and improvement.
7. NWAS will continue to support the Chair and his team throughout the Inquiry and will continue to respond promptly and efficiently to all requests for information and assistance.

**Lisa Roberts KC**  
**Lincoln House Chambers**  
**For and on behalf of NWAS**  
**5 September 2025**