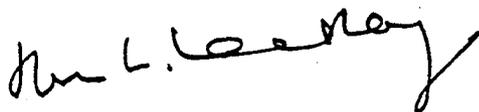


officer. It was with very great regret and reluctance that I had come to the conclusion that it would not be possible to introduce the evidence of these two witnesses at an inquest, in any shape or form, without exposing them to a grave and genuine risk to their personal safety. Notwithstanding the obvious potential importance of their evidence I was (and remain) unwilling to expose the witnesses to such a risk.

Since, however, you are seeking to persuade me that I should introduce their statements in evidence I think I ought to afford you the opportunity of suggesting how you would propose that I could do this without exposing the witnesses to the risks to which I have referred. Accordingly I will refrain from reaching a final decision as to whether or not to hold an inquest for a period of two weeks, and in the meantime if you wish to make any submissions to me on the content of this letter I will be happy to take them into consideration.

I think I ought to say that I can see the force of your submission that, if I cannot introduce the evidence of these two witnesses, little if any useful purpose would be served by holding an inquest at all. Accordingly, unless you can persuade me that there is some means by which I could introduce the evidence without exposing the witnesses to grave personal risk it is likely that I will accede, albeit with great reluctance, to your request that I should not hold an inquest in this case.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J L Leckey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

J L LECKEY
HM CORONER FOR GREATER