

# Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

## MEDIA RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CHAIR RESPONDS TO DECISION NOT TO EXTEND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chair of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry, Lord Bracadale, has pledged to complete his final report as soon as possible following the decision by Scottish Ministers not to extend the Inquiry's terms of reference.

The Inquiry was set up to examine the events surrounding the death of Sheku Bayoh, the subsequent investigation and whether race was a factor.

The Crown's decision not to bring any prosecutions and the Victims' Right to Review were excluded from the scope of the Inquiry. The families of Mr Bayoh asked Scottish Ministers to extend the terms of reference to include both these matters.

The decision by Ministers not to extend the terms of reference means the Inquiry, which has heard 122 days of evidence, will now move to closing submissions. After that, Lord Bracadale will prepare his final report without delay.

Lord Bracadale said: "Scottish Ministers have decided not to extend the terms of reference for the Inquiry, rejecting Mr Bayoh's families' request.

"I recognise that this decision will disappoint Mr Bayoh's families. They are at the heart of this Inquiry and I want to reassure them that the existing terms of reference have been thoroughly examined over 122 days of evidential hearings.

"There is much important work for the Inquiry still to do, not least proceeding with closing submissions that were postponed while we awaited a decision. My team and I are working at pace and will announce timescales in due course."

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

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