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14 August 2019

Humza Yousaf Esquire MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW - IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES OF THE  
MINERS' STRIKE 1984-85**

When this review was established, the final report was due to be submitted in June 2019. When I submitted the interim report on 29 January 2019, I requested a little further time to complete the final report in view of the work needed to assess the significant evidence ingathered as part of our extensive consultation process – 8 public meetings in mining communities between October and December 2018, a Call for Evidence which generated 108 responses and various other meetings, including some with retired police officers. You agreed to this request and suggested that the final report be submitted by 23 August 2019.

I am now writing to you to seek a further extension of time in which to produce the final report. The body of the report is nearly complete but, at a meeting of the full review team on 13 August 2019, we considered that some additional conversations and meetings were needed to clarify some outstanding points and finalise our recommendations.

As before, I confirm that we bear in mind the recommendations for a review like this to be found in the report by Professor Alison Britton (“An Investigative Review into the process of establishing, managing and supporting Independent Reviews in Scotland”). Importantly, we



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bear in mind all that was said by the then Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson MSP, in his public statement on 8 June 2019, in particular about a 'truth and reconciliation' approach intended to bring about a degree of closure to affected communities.

Yours sincerely

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is a stylized, cursive name, and the second is a more compact, blocky signature.