



## RE: APPG ON DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSTITUTION INQUIRY INTO POLICING OF CLAPHAM COMMON VIGIL

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### QUESTIONS FOR LEGAL ADVISORS

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Many thanks for considering a submission to the APPG on Democracy and the Constitution's ("APPGDC") inquiry into the policing of the Clapham Common vigil on 13 March 2021. The APPG is seeking to understand whether and/or how important rights, including the right to free expression and peaceful assembly were respected and facilitated at the vigil. The APPG is interested in your recollection of the vigil and the events leading up to it.

The APPG would be grateful if you could include any documentary evidence (such as log-books, records, photographs, or recordings) to support or supplement your submissions.

You may wish to structure your response around the following questions:

- 1. Do you consider the law and guidance in place at the time to be sufficiently clear in respect of public gatherings for the purpose of protest/free expression/peaceful assembly during the coronavirus pandemic?**
- 2. What did you understand to be the legal status of (a) the proposed vigil, and (b) the vigil that actually occurred?**
- 3. What do you understand to be the effect of the High Court's decision on 12 March 2021 in relation to (a) the proposed vigil and (b) the rights to free expression/peaceful assembly/protest in general?**
- 4. What, in your view, were the MPS duties in respect of the rights to free expression and peaceful assembly at the vigil and to what extent did the MPS properly discharge those duties?**

Please add anything else you consider relevant.

Please submit your answers in writing to Sam Fowles, Counsel to the Inquiry at [sfowles@icdr.co.uk](mailto:sfowles@icdr.co.uk).

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 14 April.