

APPENDIX B

Hillsborough Stadium Disaster Inquests

Wednesday April 27 2016

South Yorkshire Police has released a further statement following the conclusion of the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster Inquests.

"In 2012, the Chief Constable made a full apology for the failures of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and the force has stood by that ever since. In the aftermath of the verdicts, the Chief Constable apologised again and unequivocally accepted the jury's conclusions.

"We have been asked about our conduct at the Inquests. The Coroner himself gave a clear ruling that specifically addresses the relationship between apologies and evidence at the Inquests. He ruled that to admit the previous 2012 apology by the Chief Constable into proceedings would be 'wrong' and 'highly prejudicial.' He also ruled that the conduct of SYP during the Inquests was not inconsistent with this earlier apology. The force has taken careful note of the Coroner's comments during the Inquests and has sought to be open and transparent at all stages.

"It is important to remember that Inquests are not about guilt, liability or blame, but about establishing the facts. The intention throughout these proceedings has been to assist the jury understand the facts. We have never sought, at any stage, to defend the failures of SYP or its officers. Nevertheless, these failures had to be put into the context of other contributory factors. In other words, where do the failings of SYP stand in the overall picture?

"We are sorry if our approach has been perceived as at odds with our earlier apology, this was certainly not our intention."