

Remarks to the media by LORD JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER

15 LORD JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER: The second thing is that I would like to start the day by saying a word or two to the ladies and gentlemen of the media, both those assembled here in London and those further afield, in respect of our visit to Paris. Whilst this court is in Paris next week, we need to understand each other's priorities and requirements. I understand the intense media and public interest in these inquests, and, as you can see, we have gone to some lengths to facilitate your coverage of it here in the Royal Courts of Justice. I believe this interest will most likely intensify when the court visits Paris for next week's jury visit. I am fully aware that you serve the wider public interest and that you, including those of you abroad, have a right to observe the visit to Paris. I have set in place media facilities in order to accommodate this. However, in return I would like you to understand and accept a number of points. We must all remain respectful of the fact that we will be visitors in Paris. This court has the right to conduct its inquiries with dignity and integrity at all times, wherever it may be, and also, that this court has no intention of provoking any such activity that might cause unnecessary interruption to Paris or her residents. In arranging this jury visit, we have sought the assistance and support of the French authorities, and thanks to them, we have been able to arrange the best possible facilities through which everyone will see and hear exactly what the jury sees and hears, just as here in court 73. However, it is acknowledged that whilst in Paris, the court will be sitting outside its formal jurisdiction. In many ways, we must depend on the professionalism and goodwill of the media and the public to ensure that those features of a court normally protected within the courtroom here in London remain protected outside it. The French police intend to accord the court sufficient space, which I and others will refer to as "the cordon", within which to conduct our business in as undisturbed a manner as possible. Media activity inside the cordon will necessarily be confined to a small number of representatives who will share their reporting and images with all other media. Whilst the court is in session, as we move around Paris, I am permitting the extraordinary formation of a second media pool, consisting entirely of cameras. In so doing, I hope to reassure people that good, clean useable images will be made available to you all and that, in return, you will not attempt to pursue this court with cameras outside the cordon or to contest the police security operation around the cordon. I turn to the important issue of preserving the integrity of the jurors. I and the various counsel have no issue with the images you may take of us. That goes with the territory. However, the protection of the jurors' identity is of particular concern and I ask you all, especially the foreign media who may not be used to such issues, to share that concern. These 11 people are performing an important public duty under considerable pressure. They are not doing so of their choice, but because they are required to do so. So I ask all media to act responsibly and with care in relation to the jury and to take every precaution to avoid any broadcast or publication of any image which might either deliberately or inadvertently allow any juror to be identified. Again, in the interests of preserving the integrity of the jury, we shall not disclose in any detail the court's travel or accommodation arrangements. I ask that you respect this and make no attempt to determine them for yourselves. The court assembles each day in Place Vendome, as you have already been briefed, and that is where we expect to see you. Should you discover the location of the jury's accommodation, I urge you not to divulge it nor to take advantage of it in any way. May I remind all media organisations covering these proceedings that it is their duty to have knowledge of the legislation governing reporting and coverage so that mistakes do not happen and a contempt does not arise. My staff have already issued a detailed briefing note and will

work tirelessly to ensure that our arrangements for your coverage work to the highest possible standards. I look forward to seeing some of you in Paris next week and we shall all be very grateful for the assistance and cooperation that I am sure will be forthcoming. These remarks will be on the website very shortly, if anyone wants to see precisely what I have said. Members of the jury, I hope that gives you some comfort about your position in the visit as well.