

Title: Reclosure Panel		THE
Date: Thursday 31 July 2025	Time: 15:00 – 16:00	NATIONAL
	Location: Meeting Room 21C	ARCHIVES
Attendees		
Lucy Fletcher (LF)		
		Linda Stewart (LS)
Apologies		

Minutes

1. Actions from previous meeting

- 1.1. **AVIA 101/218:** Panel asked if application of s31 (law enforcement) was correct or should this have been s38? Or should it be both s31 & s38 plus s40? Case handler consulted and confirmed that s31 and s40 only apply.
- 1.2. **CRIM 1/3946:** Panel queried whether redaction rather than full closure was possible? Case handler consulted and confirmed that full closure is most suitable
Panel agreed to full closure under s38 (1)(a) and 40 (2) for 83 years until 2046.
- 1.3. **T 640/378:** full closure under s27(1)(a)(c)(d). Panel asked that the relevant stakeholder be consulted as to whether redaction is possible? The stakeholder's view is that [REDACTED] the original decision to close under S27(1) should stand, at least until 2048.

The Panel discussed this and requested that the stakeholder is provided with a copy of the file to review the potential sensitivities further.

- 1.4. **Discussions on panel membership are ongoing and will be addressed before the October meeting.**

2. Cases

- 2.1. J 277/40 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 100 years until 2074.

Recommendation not agreed – The Panel noted the case is well known. The case handler had acknowledged there was some information in public domain, but the file contains more details. However, the Panel was able to find further sources of information available. **Case handler to re-review and consider redaction.**

- 2.2. J 82/2310 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 90 years until 2064.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.3. KV 2/3756 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 80 years until 2064. The panel agreed that the extract should be closed under 40(2); possible discrepancy of closure period (2040 as opposed to 2064). It was clarified and agreed that it should be **2040**.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.4. DEFE 24/3715 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 61 years until 2060.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.5. ASSI 84/331 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) for 73 years until 2037.

Recommendation agreed – The panel noted a discrepancy between a related file (DPP 2/3609) and this file in terms of closure period. **Case handler to check DPP 2/3609 and submit a revised closure application, if necessary.**

- 2.6. ASSI 26/390 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 98 years until 2065.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.7. J 82/12 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 74 years until 2032.

Recommendation agreed – The Panel noted that while the case was public, the details within this piece are not. It was also noted that '*likely* to still be living' should be replaced by '*assumed* to still be living' on the report. Feedback to be provided to case handler.

- 2.8. ASSI 52/1221 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 98 years until 2061.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.9. CRIM 1/4827 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 97 years until 2066.

Recommendation agreed – The Panel Chair raised a wider discussion on minute-taking and whether to include further detail on the contents within the files covered by exemptions under FOIA 2000. **Post meeting update:** Discussed on 18th August 2025 and decided the level of detail in the minutes was appropriate.

It was also noted that this piece was flagged in 2023 – it was explained that this is due to the team continuing to work through the volume of Reclosure cases. It was noted that if a document was flagged with potential sensitivities now, it would be reviewed straight away.

- 2.10. CRIM 1/4843 – Recommendation: full closure under s31(1), 38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 85 years until 2066.

Recommendation agreed – Panel noted the catalogue description for this file has been temporarily removed and referred to the Takedown Panel

- 2.11. AVIA 101/209 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s38(1)(a) for 100 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.12. AVIA 101/213 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 84 years until 2057.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.13. ASSI 36/248 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 91 years until 2055.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.14. PCOM 9/2206 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 91 years until 2055.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.15. CRIM 1/5180 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 95 years until 2066.

Recommendation agreed – The Panel noted information within the file covered by section 38(1)(a) and discussed how the exemption had been applied in this case – following discussion, it was agreed that this is an acceptable and standard application.

- 2.16. DEFE 24/3738 – Recommendation; redacted opening under s40(2) for 83 years until 2081.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.17. J 82/1108 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 99 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.18. HO 391/602 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 82 years until 2066.

Recommendation not agreed. Case handler to consult with LS and further with the relevant stakeholder, if required.

- 2.19. T 538/82 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s23/24 ‘in the alternative’ for 49 years until 2033.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.20. ASSI 84/247 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 99 years until 2058.

This piece relates to a significant case, regarding the last person hanged in Wales. As such, the panel queried whether redaction was indeed impractical or otherwise unsuitable. It had been noted that the level of detail within the file is more than what is in the public domain. Following discussion, the Panel agreed that redaction was not viable, given the file contents and level of information covered by exemptions.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.21. PCOM 9/2147 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 91 years until 2050.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.22. T 522/33 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s23 for 49 years until 2033.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.23. T 624/178 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s23 & 40(2) for 78 years until 2068.

Recommendation agreed– The Panel noted that one individual was born in 1925 and questioned the necessity of their information being withheld until 1st January 2026 under section 40(2), given that this was only a few months away. Panel agreed not to redact this information; request passed onto case handler.

- 2.24. CRIM 1/2326 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 82 years until 2035.

Recommendation agreed

The Panel noted the use of an old form, and were informed that the new format was continuing to be phased in.



- 2.25. CRIM 1/3947 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 88 years until 2051.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.26. DPP 2/4020 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2066.

Recommendation agreed – The Panel noted that this file concerns a well-known investigation. This file was previously closed in full and the Panel noted that a redacted release was a positive outcome of this re-review.

- 2.27. HO 494/461 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2081.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.28. HO 494/462 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 99 years until 2098.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.29. HO 494/463 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 97 years until 2098.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.30. HO 494/464 - Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 82 years until 2081.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.31. HO 494/466 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 82 years until 2081.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.32. J 230/16 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) & 40(2) for 99 years until 2072.

Recommendation not agreed – The Panel noted that this record has been produced 16 times to the public and 16 times to staff. Consequently, Panel requests that this is investigated further to discover if this case is particularly well known, and whether a redacted open may be possible.

The Panel also agreed to edit the wording in the report from 'viewed' to 'produced' XX times for clarity.

- 2.33. BN 75/20 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.34. BN 75/42 - Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.35. BN 75/43 - Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

2.36. BN 75/24 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 60 years until 2045.
Recommendation agreed

[REDACTED]

2.37. BN 75/25– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 75 years until 2060.
Recommendation agreed

2.38. BN 75/27– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 99 years until 2084.
Recommendation agreed

2.39. BN 75/29– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 96 years until 2081.
Recommendation agreed

2.40. BN 75/30– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.
Recommendation agreed

2.41. BN 75/31– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 87 years until 2072.
Recommendation agreed

2.42. BN 75/32– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 92 years until 2077.
Recommendation agreed

2.43. BN 75/33– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 64 years until 2049.
Recommendation agreed

2.44. BN 75/34– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 81 years until 2066.
Recommendation agreed

2.45. BN 75/36– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.
Recommendation agreed

2.46. BN 75/38– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.
Recommendation agreed

2.47. BN 75/39– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2069.
Recommendation agreed

2.48. BN 75/40– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 81 years until 2066.
Recommendation agreed

2.49. **BN 29s (15 records) – all agreed.**

BN 29/2401 – Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 89 years until 2061.
Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2455– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 78 years until 2050.
Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2491– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 89 years until 2053.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2496– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 90 years until 2056.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2533– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 88 years until 2056.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2697– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2071.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2719– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2070.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2734– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2066.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2760– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2074.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2770– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 85 years until 2055.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2773– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 84 years until 2055.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2775– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2071.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2341– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 86 years until 2065.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2399– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2069.

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2403– Recommendation: redacted opening under s40(2) for 100 years until 2076.

Recommendation agreed**3. Virtual Reclosures¹**

The Panel noted that the six records on the Virtual Schedule that had previously been 'Access under Review' were now closed following FOI requests, having been through the complete FOI process.

3.1. PREM 19/917/1

¹ 'Virtual' reclosure occurs where a Freedom of Information request is received for a record held at The National Archives which has the status of 'access under review'. The review of these records is conducted through the standard FOI process, which includes consultation with the transferring department and (if a qualified exemption applies), the Advisory Council for National Records and Archives (ACRNA) and the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

- 3.2. WO 204/11488
- 3.3. J 82/4082
- 3.4. BN 29/2555
- 3.5. BN 90/3
- 3.6. T 639/189

4. Access Under Review (AUR) records to return to open access

A schedule of 15 records that have been reviewed by the FOI centre and are to revert to open status was presented to the panel for their information. These records previously had an 'access under review' status and were found not to contain any sensitive information.

- 4.1. T 162/96
- 4.2. T 341/772
- 4.3. T 483/138
- 4.4. T 639/173
- 4.5. T 639/80
- 4.6. FO 950/3587
- 4.7. AVIA 101/208
- 4.8. AVIA 101/210
- 4.9. AVIA 101/211
- 4.10. AVIA 101/212
- 4.11. AVIA 101/214
- 4.12. AVIA 6/23898
- 4.13. DR 11/51
- 4.14. HO 195/13 (item reference: HO 195/13/324)
- 4.15. J 223/47

5. AoB

- 5.1. Recurring item: Access Under Review (AUR) data at TNA
Panel presented with statistics. Number of AUR at TNA documents going down. The Reclosure review caseload has taken a slight uptake, generally going down from beginning of the year. Reclosure panel has seen 228 cases so far this year. Efforts of all noted.

[REDACTED]

- 5.2. Reclosure panel membership review to be rolled over to October.
- 5.3. Date of next meeting: 02 October 2025, 15:00 (Meeting Room 21E)