

Reclosure Panel – Public Minutes		THE
Date: Thursday 2 nd October 2025	Time: 15:00-16:00	NATIONAL
	Location: Meeting Room 21E	ARCHIVES
Attendees		
Lucy Fletcher (LF)		
		Linda Stewart (LS)
Helen Potter (HP)	Saul Nassé (SN)	Juergen Vervoorst (JV)
Apologies		

Minutes:

1) Actions/queries from previous meeting (held 31 July 2025)

- 1.1. ASSI 84/331: Panel noted that this record is closed for 73 years until 2037 and related record DPP 2/3609 is closed for 74 years until 2038 though both dated 1963. Files to be rechecked to clarify why closure periods differ and if they should match.
 - Case handler confirmed that both records should be closed until 2037.
 - **Panel agreed**
- 1.2. J 230/16: Panel queried the number of productions to the public and staff for this record
 - The case handler confirmed that incorrect stats were given due to a misinterpretation of the figures. Correct number of productions = public 1, and staff 2
 - **Panel agreed**
- 1.3. T 640/378: June's Panel requested the relevant stakeholder be consulted as to whether redaction was possible. The stakeholder response was that original decision to close in full under S27(1) should stand. July's Panel asked that the stakeholder be provided with a copy of the record to further review the potential sensitivities.
 - Following further review, the stakeholder agreed the record could be opened with some redactions under S27(1)
 - **Panel agreed**
- 1.4. J 277/40: Panel asked that the case handler be consulted as to whether redaction was possible
 - Case handler re-reviewed the file and reported that redaction was not possible due to the graphic detail within the file and that, with the victim's surviving relatives assumed still living, it should remain closed in full under S38(1)(a) and 40(2)

➤ **Panel agreed with the initial recommendation based on handler's re-review**

1.5. HO 391/602: Panel asked that further information be sought from the relevant stakeholder

➤ Stakeholder confirmed that the information within two folios is not in the public domain and should be redacted under S40(2).

➤ The Panel was not convinced that S40(2) is applicable and ask that this is reconsidered.

➤ **Recommendation not agreed**

1.6. T 624/178: Panel noted that one individual was born in 1925 and questioned whether their name should be re-closed, given that it would be open in a few months' time on 1 Jan 2026

➤ Case handler agreed that redaction of this name was not necessary

➤ **Panel agreed**

2) Case recommendations – full closures & redacted opens

2.1. **J 84 various (30 records relating to adoption):** – Recommendation: full close under Section 40(2) until various dates of 27 records and return to open access of 3 records

Recommendation on hold – the discussion regarding these records will continue. Agreement will be sought, and potentially taken to the next panel (December 2025)

2.2. J 267/69– Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 82 years until 2056

Recommendation agreed

J 82/1535– Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 85 years until 2056

Recommendation agreed

J 82/2513– Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 83 years until 2057

Recommendation agreed

MEPO 26/21– Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 85 years until 2062

Recommendation agreed

MEPO 26/22– Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 92 years until 2062

Recommendation agreed

MEPO 26/165 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 78 years until 2057

Recommendation agreed

2.3. J 82/3873 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 98 years until 2077

Recommendation agreed

- 2.4. J 82/2187 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 97 years until 2072

Recommendation agreed

- 2.5. J 82/450 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 87 years until 2052.

The Panel queried whether the initial recommendation of a full close should be reconsidered, but it was noted that this is a particularly graphic case, regardless of what may be in the public domain.

Recommendation – roll over – query to case handler.

- 2.6. FCO 87/136 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2073

This record contains serving writs – the panel queried whether that by nature, this information is public. It was also noted that while several names are in the public domain, not all names are.

Recommendation – roll over to next panel; query to case handler regarding what information is in the public domain.

- 2.7. ASSI 45/304 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 97 years until 2055

Recommendation agreed

- 2.8. ASSI 52/839 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 99 years until 2055

Recommendation agreed

- 2.9. FCO 31/3828 – Recommendation: redacted open under s23/24 “in the alternative”, 26(1)(a)(b), 27(1)(a)(c)(d) and 27(2) for 51 years until 2035

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

- 2.10. J 82/3027 – Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 94 years until 2071

Recommendation agreed

- 2.11. HO 288/333 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 82 years until 2079

Recommendation agreed

- 2.12. HO 288/357 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 80 years until 2077

Recommendation agreed

- 2.13. HO 288/358 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 80 years until 2077

Recommendation agreed

- 2.14. HO 288/362 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 88 years until 2085

Recommendation agreed

2.15. J 267/1017 – Recommendation: redacted open under s27(2) and 40(2) for 77 years until 2065

Recommendation not agreed - rolled over to next panel

2.16. CAB 143/15 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 79 years until 2033

Recommendation not agreed - rolled over to next panel

2.17. J 297/266- Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 84 years until 2063

Recommendation agreed

2.18. MT 208/8 – Recommendation: redacted open under s26 and 40(2) for 82 years until 2084

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.19 PF 320/42 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 96 years until 2092

Recommendation agreed

2.20. T 476/536 – Recommendation: redacted open under s23(1) and 40(2) for 62 years until 2055

Recommendation agreed

2.21. ASSI 26/205 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 100 years until 2061

Recommendation agreed

2.22. BN 62/576 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 92 years until 2064

Recommendation agreed

2.23. T 447/532 – Recommendation: redacted open under s23/24 and 26 for 49 years until 2033 on a “rolling-ten year” basis

Recommendation agreed

2.24. BN 62/561 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 92 years until 2057

Recommendation agreed

2.25 WO 423/8954 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 77 years until 2041

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.26 ASSI 45/299 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 99 years until 2057

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.27. J 82/31 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 99 years until 2057

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.28. ASSI 36/520 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 100 years until

2067

Recommendation agreed

2.29. WO 377/81 – Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(b) for 84 years until 2064

Recommendation agreed

2.30. LCO 53/182 – Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 69 years until 2032

Recommendation agreed

2.31 DEFE 70/213 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2057

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.32. BN 62/695 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 92 years until 2053

Recommendation agreed

2.33. BN 62/1620 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 91 years until 2044

Recommendation agreed

2.34. BN 62/1637 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2041

Recommendation agreed

2.35. BN 62/1644 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 90 years until 2045

Recommendation agreed

2.36. BN 62/3146 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 89 years until 2055

Recommendation agreed

2.37. FCO 9/1616 – Recommendation: redacted open under s27(1)(a)(c)(d) for 60 years until 2033

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.38. WO 305/9841 – Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 81 years until 2073

Recommendation agreed

2.39. MH 96/1387 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 82 years until 2051

Recommendation agreed

2.40. MEPO 21/194 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 90 years until 2073

Recommendation agreed

2.41. BN 75/56 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 86 years until 2073

Recommendation agreed

- 2.42. BN 75/76 – Recommendation: redacted open via a digital open extract under s40(2) for 90 years until 2070

Recommendation agreed

- 2.43. CRIM 1/4186 – Recommendation: full closure under s40(2) for 74 years until 2038

Recommendation agreed

- 2.44. J 267/922 – Recommendation: full closure under s38(1)(a) and 40(2) for 80 years until 2064

Recommendation agreed

- 2.45. T 492/306 – Recommendation: full closure under s23(1), 24(1) and 26(1)(a)(b) for 49 years until 2036 on a “rolling-ten year” basis

Recommendation agreed

- 2.46. T 629/92 – Recommendation: full closure under s23(1), 24(1) and 26(1)(a)(b) for 49 years until 2036

Recommendation agreed

2.47-2.49 - FCO 141s Overview

These items concern 3 separate files, within each are documents proposed to go on loan to the Imperial War Museum. During preparation, it was noticed that the records contained potentially sensitive personal information. The records underwent review and minor redactions under section 40(2) of FOIA were proposed for all three records.

The Head of Collection Care (JV) attended the Panel meeting as an observer. The Panel recognises the need of preserving relations between TNA and partners.

Recommendation agreed in part – redactions on the loan document to be undone, allowing for the un-redacted document to be loaned in full. Panel agreed to the redaction of the remainder of the information identified as covered by section 40(2) of FOIA

- 2.47 FCO 141/3900**– Recommendation: redacted open under Section 40(2) for 96 Years until 2055.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.48 FCO 141/7475**– Recommendation: redacted open under Section 40(2) for 86 years until 2043

The panel noted the particular sensitivity of these records given the nature of the allegations in question.

Recommendation agreed

- 2.49 FCO 141/6336**– Recommendation: redacted open under Section 40(2) for 84 years until 2044.

The Panel discussed this record at great length before concluding that the public interest lies in favour of disclosure of the particular document selected for loan, and the offer of record expertise from TNA assuages some of the concerns with disclosing possible sensitive information.

2.50. WO 305/8293– Recommendation: redacted open under s38(1)(b) and 40(2) for 82 years until 2073

Recommendation agreed

2.51. HO 394/634 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 60 years until 2045

Recommendation agreed

2.52. HO 360/13 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 80 years until 2046

Recommendation agreed

2.53. HO 360/96 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 72 years until 2040

Recommendation agreed

2.54. DPP 2/3939 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2050

Recommendation not agreed – rolled over to next panel

2.55. Reclosure Project: BN 27 review (15 records) – all agreed

BN 27/5 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 69 years until 2047

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/10 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 99 years until 2077

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/11 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 70 years until 2048

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/12 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 96 years until 2074

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/13 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2062

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/14 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 82 years until 2060

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/15 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2062

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/16 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 82 years until 2060

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/18 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 79 years until 2057

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/19 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 60 years until 2038

Recommendation agreed

BN 27/20 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 78 years until 2056

Recommendation agreed

2.56. Reclosure Project: BN 29 review (18 records) – all agreed.

BN 29/2096 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 78 years until 2051

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2466 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 86 years until 2048

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2469 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 84 years until 2049

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2470 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 88 years until 2058

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2471 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 88 years until 2058

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2622 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 88 years until 2062

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2625 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 86 years until 2079

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2793 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2072

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2796 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2072

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2799 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2071

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2801 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2069

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2807 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2071

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2818 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2070

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2846 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2066

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2847 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2071

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2848 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 100 years until 2067

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2849 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 95 years until 2066

Recommendation agreed

BN 29/2850 – Recommendation: redacted open under s40(2) for 78 years until 2066

Recommendation agreed

3) Virtual FOI Reclosure cases (BAU)¹

The Panel noted that the 7 records on the Virtual Schedule (BAU) that had previously been 'Access under Review' were now resolved following FOI requests, having been through the complete FOI process.

- 3.1. POWE 74/146
- 3.2. CJ 4/969
- 3.3. PREM 19/3345/1
- 3.4. DPP 2/4762
- 3.5. DPP 2/4688
- 3.6. ASSI 81/9
- 3.7. DPP 2/4688

4) Virtual FOI Reclosure cases (seen by Panel Chair)

The Panel noted that the 3 records on the Virtual Schedule (further consideration) that had previously been 'Access under Review' were now resolved following FOI requests, having been through the complete FOI process. These cases were also seen and approved by the Reclosure Panel Chair, as they met the criteria for further consideration.

- 4.1. CRIM 1/5306
- 4.2. HO 256/1559
- 4.3. J 267/1317

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.

5) Access Under Review (AUR) records returned to open access

A schedule of 28 records that were 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.

- 5.1 BN 62/1561
- 5.2 BN 62/1568
- 5.3 BN 62/1575
- 5.4 BN 62/1604
- 5.5 BN 62/1618
- 5.6 BN 62/1626
- 5.7 BN 62/3173
- 5.8 BN 62/3176
- 5.9 BN 62/557
- 5.10 MEPO 3/1899
- 5.11 T 537/8
- 5.12 T 502/133
- 5.13 T 432/378
- 5.14 DEFE 24/965
- 5.15 T 492/421
- 5.16 BN 62/67
- 5.17 DEFE 13/1042
- 5.18 FCO 33/9658
- 5.19 HO 291/227
- 5.20 BN 62/1722
- 5.21 BN 62/641
- 5.22 BN 62/2840
- 5.23 BN 62/2264
- 5.24 T 628/50
- 5.25 BN 27/1
- 5.26 BN 27/2
- 5.27 BN 27/17
- 5.28 BN 27/129

6) Any other business

- 6.1 Date of next meeting: 4th December 2025, 10:30-12:00, Meeting Room 21C & MS Teams.