**Voicing Loss: Group C (Bereaved Individuals) Interview Schedule**

**Opening section**

* Introductions, welcome, check in re warmth, comfort, drink, toilet etc. etc. [Will need to do this slightly differently for phone/remote interviews c/w F2F interviews - e.g., ask if they are in a private space, suggest switching to telephone if there are connection problems.]
* Extend condolences & ask interviewee how they would like to be referred to; how they would like the deceased person to be referred to throughout; **and (if not known) how they are related to the deceased person.**
* Consent: If in person and consent form not already returned, go through consent form & ask interviewee to complete it. If remote, confirm receipt/understanding of form submitted in advance, or obtain oral consent on a separate recording.
* Emphasise to interviewee that they can take a break at any point or stop all together, & that while we want them to be open & honest with us, they are only to share what they feel comfortable sharing – we will move on if they ask us to, or if we assess that that is what we should do.
* Explain use of open-ended questions – that we are interested in hearing about their views and experiences.

*Essential questions are in orange below*

**Settling in questions**

*Use either, both or alternative ‘settling in’ questions as feels appropriate. In some cases, it might feel more appropriate to go straight to Q3 – e.g. if there’s limited time or the respondent otherwise seems keen to get on with it.*

1. Please can you tell me a little bit about yourself: for example, where you grew up, your current or any previous occupation?
2. If you would like to do so, before I ask you about your experiences of the coroner’s investigation and inquest, please can you to tell me something about X – such as how you might describe him/her as a person?

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| **Core questions – to be asked as & where appropriate**  **A) Should bereaved people be ‘at the heart of’ the coroner process?**  **B) What does it mean for bereaved people to be ‘at the heart of’ the process?**  **C) Why should bereaved people be ‘at the heart of’ the process?**  **D) What, if anything, could have helped you – or what could help bereaved people generally – to be ‘at the heart of’ the process?** |

**Expectations of coroner’s investigation and inquest**

1. **As you know, we’re interested in hearing about your experiences of the coroner’s investigation and inquest into X’s death. Please can you tell me, first of all, approximately when you first found out that the coroner was investigating the death? And was there an inquest and, if so, when? [month/year]**
2. **Looking back to [date] when you first found out that the coroner was investigating the death, did you expect or want anything in particular from this process? If so, what?**
3. **How did the coroner’s investigation and inquest reflect – or not reflect – what you wanted or expected?**

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| **Potential addition to/reframing of Qs 4-5**  **Looking back at the coroner’s investigation and inquest, what aspects of the experience do you remember most clearly?** |

**Pre-inquest review & inquest hearing**

*To ask if only if there has been an inquest/PIR, and to the extent that details of inquest have not been covered by answers to 4 & 5. NB: make sure to leave time for Qs 6 & 8.*

1. **Can you tell me [more] about what happened when you took attended a hearing– that is, during the main hearing in the coroner’s court and the Pre-Inquest Review (PIR) if there was one.**

*The following are prompts only, for reference – no expectation that most will be covered.*

*In asking these questions, be aware that respondent may now know or remember.*

1. Was there a Pre-Inquest Review?
2. Attended – and in person or remotely?
3. Length of PIR?
4. What happened in PIR?
5. Length of inquest?
6. Attended – and in person or remotely?
7. If remote: effect on experience of the hearing?
8. Reason for attending/not attending?
9. Number & types of witnesses (e.g. organisations they’re from)?
10. Was interviewee legally represented?
11. Were others legally represented – total number of lawyers present?
12. Jury present?
13. Experience of asking questions of witnesses at the inquest (directly or through lawyer) – including what they asked & what responses they got?
14. Inquest conclusion?
15. Help, advice or support before or during inquest (other than from lawyer), eg from advice or support services, advocacy groups, self-help groups?
16. Treatment by/interaction with coroner, coroner’s officer & others during inquest?
17. Features of room/building? (if attended in person)
18. Technological problems or processes (if attended remotely)
19. Whether other family members/friends attended inquest, and their involvement?

**Impacts and participation**

1. **Overall, how would you say you have been affected by the coroner’s investigation and inquest into X’s death? Do you think the investigation has affected the way you have grieved for X’s death and, if so, how?**
2. Overall, what effect, if any, do you think *you* had on the coroner’s investigation and inquest?
3. **What role do you think bereaved people *should* have in coroners’ investigations & inquests, and what could be done to help them play that role? Why is this role important?**

*Prompt, where appropriate:* Government policy states that bereaved people should be ‘at the heart of’ the coroner service. Have you heard this phrase? What does it mean to you?

1. If someone you know was about to go through the experience of a coroner’s investigation and inquest, is there any advice you would give them about what it might be like or what they should do?

**Closing questions**

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experiences of the inquest and coroner’s investigation that you think will be useful to our study, or do you have any further comments on the issues we have discussed?
2. [If snow-balling] Is there anyone else we could talk to about their experience of the inquest process? *If so, discuss contact arrangements.*

**Demographics**

**13. Before finishing, I have a few very short demographic questions about you and X.**

*For in-person interviews, provide Demographic Information Form & ask if they would like to fill it in; for remote, explain/demonstrate that you are filling out the form. Purpose of using a form is to make the process quicker and less intrusive.*

**Close**

* Complete follow-up section of consent form (including provide voucher, if face-to-face).
* Check respondent is OK to get home, if applicable.
* Ask if respondent would like details of relevant support organisations; if so, arrange when & how to follow up.
* Ask if they would like a check-in after a week; if so, arrange time & method of contact.
* Thank for participation and check if they have further queries or comments relating to the project.