**Voicing Loss: Group B (Professionals Giving Evidence) Interview Schedule**

**Opening section**

* Introductions, welcome, check in re time available for interview, comfort, privacy (if remote) etc.
* Ask interviewee how they would like to be referred to (if not already known).
* Consent: If in person and consent form not already returned, go through consent form and ask interviewee to complete it. If remote, confirm receipt/understanding of form submitted in advance, or obtain oral consent on a separate recording.
* Reiterate confidentiality: nothing will be included in any project report or any other output that could identify the interviewee or other individuals (including colleagues and the deceased person who was the subject of any inquests discussed).
* Emphasise to the interviewee that they can take a break at any point or stop the interview, or opt not to answer any specific questions. Explain that while we want them to be open and honest with us, they should only share what they feel comfortable with.
* Explain use of open-ended questions: that we are interested in hearing about their views and experiences.

**Background**

1. Please can you tell me what is your current job title and role? How long you have been in this role?
2. In your role as […], how many times have you given evidence at an inquest since July 2013?
3. Please can you briefly describe the circumstances of death(s) in relation to which you gave evidence?

**Experiences of giving evidence**

1. How would you describe your experience(s) of giving evidence in the coroner’s court(s) in your role as […]?
2. Were there any aspects of your experience(s) of giving evidence that you found especially challenging? What were these aspects?
3. What do you think could help people in similar roles to your own to give evidence at inquests?

Prompt, if appropriate, with:

* Differences in how inquests are conducted by coroners
* Differences in lawyers’ questions or approaches
* Preparation or training before giving evidence
* Support after giving evidence
* Other

**Role of bereaved people**

1. When you gave evidence at the inquest(s), were you aware of any bereaved relatives or friends of the deceased being in attendance? If so:

* Did this affect the way you gave evidence? How?
* Did you have any contact with the bereaved people? What kind of contact?

1. Based on your experiences, how do you think bereaved people are treated in the inquest process?
2. Government policy is that bereaved people should be ‘at the heart of’ the coroners’ investigations and inquests. Have you heard of this policy aim?

* Do you think it’s important for people to be ‘at the heart’ of the coronial process? Why/why not?
* If you think bereaved people should be ‘at the heart’ of the coroner’s investigation and inquest, what do you think this means, in practice? How can this be achieved?

**Close**

1. Is there anything else you want to say on the issues we have discussed?

TURN OFF RECORDING

* Demographic questions:
* What is your age?
* What is your gender?
* How would you describe your race or ethnicity?

* If appropriate, ask if they have access to relevant support, and/or if they would like us to get back to them with details of support and/or to check in.
* Thank for participation and check if they have further queries or comments.
* Mention follow-up (in accordance with response on consent form).