**Voicing Loss: Group B (Professionals Giving Evidence) 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.]
* 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 & 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*

**Background**

1. **Please can you tell me what is your current job title and role, and how long you have been in this role?**
2. **How many times and in what capacity you have given evidence at inquests?**

**Experiences of giving evidence**

1. **How have you found the experience of giving evidence at inquests?**

Prompts:

*Can you take me through your experience of giving evidence, how did you find it?*

*For someone who has extensive experience of giving evidence: can you tell me about the most recent inquest that you gave evidence to?*

1. To what extent, and how, do you think that giving evidence at inquests has an impact on professionals’/practitioners’ emotional or psychological wellbeing?

*Prompts: How have you/your colleagues been supported to deal with this or managed this?*

1. If a colleague was about to attend an inquest to give evidence in a professional capacity, is there any advice you would give them about what it might be like or what they should do?
2. **Have you received any preparation or training prior to giving evidence in the coroner’s court?**

**Role of bereaved people**

1. **When you gave evidence, how much contact & what kind of contact did you with bereaved people?**
2. **When you gave evidence, were you aware of the presence of bereaved people, and how did this affect you, if at all?**
3. **How do you feel bereaved people are treated in the inquest process?**
4. Based on your experiences, is there anything that should be done differently in relation to how bereaved people are treated during the process?
5. **Government policy is that bereaved people should be ‘at the heart of’ the Coroners’ Service. Have you heard of this policy aim? Do you think it’s important for people to be at the heart of the service and why/why not? If so, how can this be achieved?**
6. If someone you know was about to go through the experience of a coroner’s investigation and inquest [as a bereaved person], is there any advice you would give them about what it might be like or what they should do?

**Final questions**

1. Is there anything else you want to say on the issues we have discussed?
2. [If snow-balling] Is there anyone else we should talk to about their experience of the inquest process?

**Demographic information**

Before finishing, I have a few, very short demographic questions to ask you.

1. What is your age (approx)?
2. What is your gender?
3. How would you describe your race or ethnicity?
4. [If not known] What is the city/town/geographical area in which you are currently working?

**Close**

* Complete follow-up section of consent
* If appropriate, ask if they would like us to get back to them with details of relevant support (or if they can access support through their employer).
* Thank for participation and check if they have further queries or comments relating to the project.