



# Scottish Hazards Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

## **Scottish Hazards Commits to Continuing Support for Family of Cameron House Victims**

Leading workplace health and safety charity Scottish Hazards has pledged continuing support for the family of Simon Midgley and Richard Dyson following the release of the fatal accident inquiry determination into their deaths in the Cameron House fire on 18 December 2017.

Louise Adamson, Scottish Hazards' Trustee and member of Families Against Corporate Killers said:

“Five years after the tragedy Jane and her family now have a determination laying bare the failures that led to the deaths of Simon and his partner Richard, and making wide-ranging recommendations for change. They have been fully vindicated in having fought to have this inquiry happen.

Throughout this gruelling process, they've shown strength beyond measure, driven by the need to stop this happening to others and so have been devastated further by the loss of three more young lives in the New County Hotel fire. We now implore all those to whom recommendations have been directed to take prompt and decisive action to prevent any more families suffering this heartbreak. Our organisations have been privileged to have stood with Jane and her family since after the prosecution took place, and we will continue to support them in this next chapter.”

Ian Tasker Chief Executive of Scottish Hazards said:

“The publication of this determination finally begins to help Jane and her family to understand what happened on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December five years ago. However, five years is far too long a period for the family to have to wait to get to this stage. Sadly, this is not uncommon. While we welcome the recommendations of Sheriff McCartney, we now have to support the family and make the recommendations become a reality. Simon and Richard were denied all their tomorrows. They and their families deserve action today from all those organisations which have had recommendations directed their way.

And so we would urge the owners and operators of hotels and other similar sleeping accommodation to read the determination and then take action **today** to review their operations when it comes to open fires, fire evacuations and roll calls, and the regular undertaking of mock fire drills, particularly in relation to night-time staff.

We urge the Scottish Government to begin work **today** on considering introducing a requirement to have active fire suppression systems installed in future conversions of historic buildings, and to begin work **today** on convening an expert working group to explore the special risks posed by hotels.

And we urge the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to take action **today** to ensure there is never again any delay in issuing a written report after a fire safety inspection.

Through the last 5 years of devastation and distress, Jane and her family have found the strength to keep going. They now need strength of action from those who hold the keys to preventing such preventable tragedies from ever happening again.”

**Ends**

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