



# Newsletter

February 2020  
Issue 8

## Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

For the first few months of this year, the Inquiry is holding local, informal meetings where people can hear about the Inquiry's work and meet others participating in the Inquiry. So far we have had a mix of people attending: some who have only recently heard about the Inquiry and others who have campaigned for decades. As well as sharing information with people attending this is an excellent opportunity for the Inquiry team to hear from you. So please consider signing up if there is a meeting near you soon.

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## Expert Hearings

At the expert hearings starting on Monday 24 February, Jenni Richards QC will be joined by Katie Scott, Junior Counsel to the Inquiry, in putting questions to the experts. As with all Inquiry hearings, these will be filmed and shown through the Inquiry's website.



Jenni Richards QC



Katie Scott - Junior Counsel

The experts giving evidence will do so in small groups of up to seven. They will not be asked to comment on the treatment or decision-making for any of the individuals who have given evidence to the Inquiry. Their role is to provide clinical information about the infections and the effectiveness of current treatment.

The hearings will start at 10.30 and should finish by 4.30pm at the latest. A factsheet and timetable have been published with further details. If you haven't already registered your attendance and would like to attend, please contact the Inquiry by phone.



**Pam Allen, Kay Durrant & Jackie Wilson**

## Intermediaries

Early last year, the Inquiry recruited three experienced professionals with social work and investigation expertise to speak to people infected and affected who wanted to remain anonymous, or who felt the standard witness statement process was not right for them. The intermediaries' first report to the Inquiry was published on 29 January and can be read [here](#). Inquiry Counsel will be asking the intermediaries about their report on the morning of Monday 24 February at the start of the week of expert hearings. The intermediaries will continue to be available throughout the Inquiry. If you would like to use this service, please contact the Inquiry team on 0808 169 1377 or email [contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk).

## Witness Statements

Witness statements, films and transcripts for everyone who gave oral evidence at the hearings from 30 April to 1 November last year are now on the Inquiry website. The Inquiry has started to work through the many other witness statements to prepare them for publication on the website. The team carries out a rigorous process for each statement to ensure that nobody's anonymity is compromised and that all significant criticisms are shared with the individuals being criticised. We are aiming to publish around 200 statements every three months. When your statement is due to be published on the website you will be informed either directly by the Inquiry team or by your legal representative.

## Local Meetings

The Inquiry has met people in Leeds, Manchester, London, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Tunbridge Wells, Norwich, Bangor (Wales) and Liverpool in the past few weeks.

There is still time to register your attendance for the following meetings, so do get in touch if you would like to attend.

Belfast - 3 March
Derry - 4 March
Newcastle - 27 March
Carlisle - 30 March
Glasgow - 31 March
Perth - 1 April
Inverness - 2 April

### Infected Blood Inquiry contact details

**Tel:** 0808 169 1377

**Email:** [contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk)

**Address:**

Fleetbank House, 1st Floor, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE

**Twitter:** @bloodinquiry

**Website:** [www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](http://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk)

### British Red Cross

#### Confidential Support line

**Tel:** 0800 458 9473 or 0203 417 0280 at these times:

Monday between 11am - 1pm;

Wednesday between 7pm - 9pm; and

Friday between 2pm - 4pm.

Or leave a message any time and you will receive a call back as soon as possible