



Newsletter

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Issue 5

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

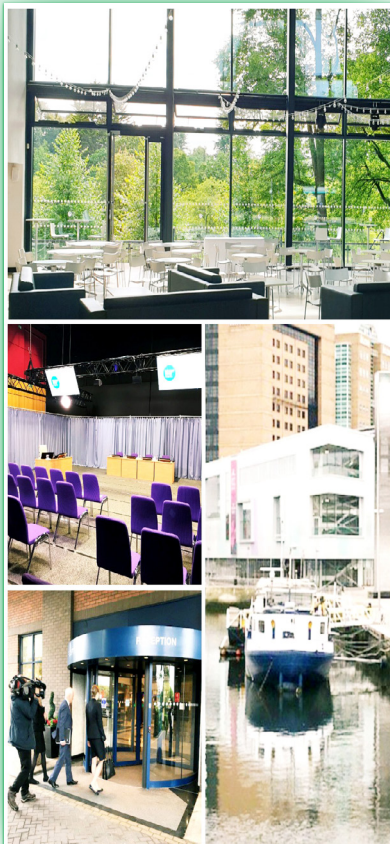
The Inquiry's regional hearings have now finished and we are preparing for the October hearings in London. In his closing words at Cardiff, Sir Brian reflected on all the hearings and described the "collective comfort" of listening to evidence alongside others who have been similarly affected. He reminded everyone listening in the room and online that they may find a conversation with the Inquiry Red Cross team helpful over the coming weeks - their contact details are below. I would also like to echo Sir Brian's point that the Inquiry welcomes further written statements or conversations with an Inquiry intermediary - please don't hesitate to contact the team if you would like any advice on this.

Behind the scenes at the Inquiry hearings

It was good to welcome so many people to the hearings the Inquiry has held since April. We understand that attending in person can be particularly emotional and not everyone will want - or is practically able - to do that. The Inquiry team was always aware of the many people following the witness sessions online, but we are conscious that the online version cannot give a full sense of the experience.

For instance, while watching witnesses giving evidence you may have noticed some people dressed in black and wearing headsets. They work for RTS Communications, a firm with a lot of experience in the private and public sectors, including for work on other public inquiries. The RTS team has helped install lighting, cameras, desks, wifi, screens and all the other behind-the-scenes technology required for this Inquiry to be as accessible and user-friendly as possible.

Thanks to the hard work by RTS, the Inquiry was able to operate at each of the other locations in the same way as in London. This was quite a task as at one venue it took over 6km of audio, visual and data cabling for all the equipment to work properly. The RTS team's expertise allowed the Inquiry to broadcast proceedings live on the internet across the world, and provided TV broadcasters with high definition footage to help raise awareness of the experience of people infected and affected.



A snapshot of the regional hearings. From top to bottom: Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast and Leeds

Confidential support

You can contact the confidential support team directly by calling 0800 458 9473 or 0203 417 0280 at these times:

Monday between 11am and 1pm; Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm; and Friday between 2pm and 4pm.

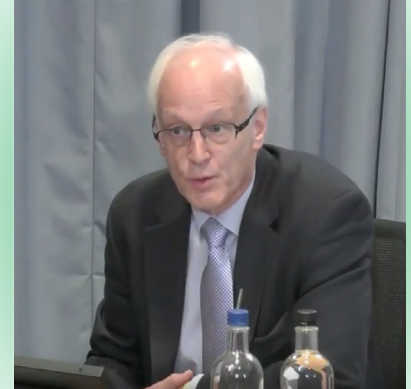
You can also leave a message at other times and the team will call you back as soon as possible.

Witness hearings in October

The next witness hearings for evidence from people infected and affected will take place in October at Fleetbank House in London on these dates:

- Tuesday 8 October to Friday 11 October
- Tuesday 15 October to Friday 18 October
- Tuesday 29 October to Friday 1 November

Witnesses are currently being selected and a full schedule will be published prior to each set of hearings. As has been the case up to now, priority seating will be arranged for witnesses, and their close friends and family.



In November the Inquiry will hear five days of evidence from members of the Inquiry's expert groups. These sessions will cover three topics:

- Current clinical knowledge about haemophilia, other blood and bleeding disorders and primary immunodeficiencies;
- Current clinical knowledge on hepatitis and HIV, the current and past treatments and consequences of that treatment;
- The psychosocial impact of these infections on people infected and affected.

These hearings will take place on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November, and Tuesday 26 November to Thursday 28 November. The details of the experts giving evidence will be published on the Inquiry website in due course.

You can register your interest to attend the hearings in October and November now by going to www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/hearings-0 or by getting in touch with us by phone or email.

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