



INFORMATION ABOUT THE INQUIRY HEARINGS

1. This document provides practical information about the way Inquiry hearings during the period from 30 April to 18 October will be conducted.
2. Section 18 of the Inquiries Act 2005 requires the Chair to take such steps as he considers reasonable to enable members of the public and media to attend the Inquiry (or see a simultaneous transmission of the Inquiry proceedings) and to obtain or view a record of evidence and documents given, produced or provided to the Inquiry.
3. Inquiry hearings between April and October 2019 will be held at the following locations:
 - Fleetbank House, London – 30 April-3 May, 7-10 May 2019
 - International Conference Centre, Waterfront Hall, Belfast – 21-24 May
 - Fleetbank House, London – 4-7 June
 - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Leeds – 11-14 June, 18-21 June
 - International Conference Centre, Edinburgh – 2-5 July, 8-11 July
 - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff – 23-26 July
 - Fleetbank House, London – 8-11 October, 15-18 October
4. The Inquiry opened registration for the hearings on 14 March. Priority for the central seating will be given to people infected and affected, with reserved seats for family and others close to witnesses speaking that day. There will be separate seating areas for the recognised legal representatives of core participants and members of the media. People who wish to attend the hearings are strongly encouraged to register in

Infected Blood Inquiry

Fleetbank House, 1st Floor, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE
contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk
Freephone 08081691377

advance, as they will not otherwise be assured of having a seat. Priority on any day will be given to those who have registered in advance.

5. The Inquiry hearings will be live streamed on YouTube and thereafter the video recording will be available via the Inquiry's website. Transcripts of the hearings will be made available on the Inquiry's website by the following day.
6. Section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 allows for restrictions to be imposed on attendance at the Inquiry, a particular part of the Inquiry, and on the disclosure or publication of evidence provided to the Inquiry.
7. Applications for anonymity are determined by the Chair in accordance with his powers under section 19 and the procedure set out in Statement of Approach – Anonymity and Redaction. A General Restriction Order has already been made by the Chair that prohibits the disclosure or publication of the name and address of, and other identifying information about, a witness who has been granted anonymity. A copy of the General Restriction Order is available on the Inquiry's website.
8. The written statements of witnesses giving oral evidence will be disclosed to Core Participants in advance of the witness giving oral evidence. Those statements will be published on the Inquiry's website at the time, or shortly after, the witness gives oral evidence. In the case of witnesses who have been granted anonymity, the statements will be disclosed and published in redacted form (i.e. with identifying information removed).
9. Where a witness is granted anonymity and is invited to provide oral evidence at an Inquiry hearing, the following protections will be made available:
 - a) A further Restriction Order specific to the individual witness will be made by the Chair, prohibiting the publication or disclosure of the name or address of the witness or of identifying information about the witness.

- b) On the day on which the witness gives evidence, their access to the Inquiry hearing room will be through a private entrance.
- c) Before the witness gives evidence, the Chair will explain that a Restriction Order is in place which prohibits the disclosure or publication of the name or address of the witness or of information which would identify the witness.
- d) No mention will be made of any information which has been redacted from the witness's written statement
- e) No recognisable image of the witness will be live streamed or shown on a video recording of the hearing.
- f) The voice of the witness will (if the witness wishes) be distorted in the live stream and video recording of the hearing.
- g) The Inquiry is always willing to consider other ways of preserving anonymity if individuals consider that would help them to give the evidence they would particularly wish to give.
- h) If at any point during their evidence the witness accidentally says anything that could identify themselves, the Chair is able to halt the proceedings. There is a three-minute delay on the transmission to allow for the feed to be stopped and that portion omitted from the live stream and video recording.
- i) Before the transcript of the oral evidence of the witness is published, it will be checked to ensure that the witness's anonymity has been preserved.

10. It is possible for a friend or relative to sit with a witness as personal support but in a non-speaking role while the witness gives their oral evidence. This should be requested in advance, if desired.

11. All witnesses giving oral evidence will have the opportunity to meet Counsel to the Inquiry and to see the hearing room before they give evidence if they wish.

12. Evidence will be given under oath or affirmation.

13. Those attending, whether press or individual, will not be permitted to film or take pictures in the hearing room.

Issued by the Chair on 29 March 2019.