



Hearings at Fleetbank House

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment

The Inquiry's consultation in June indicated strong support for proceeding with public hearings, including participation of the public, media and legal representatives, to the extent possible in line with public health considerations. Since then we have introduced changes with the aim of reducing risks from coronavirus. This risk assessment sets out the changes made, including:

- Limited numbers attending each day with reserved seats 2m apart
- Increased cleaning and infection control measures
- Regular hand sanitisation points
- Floor markings and signage for social distancing
- Wearing of face coverings by everyone attending, including staff

Reducing the risk of coronavirus relies on all of us making sensible decisions. That is why we are asking everyone who is considering coming to a hearing not to do so if there is any risk that they have coronavirus or they feel unwell and aren't sure why.

The Inquiry will continue to update this risk assessment to ensure it meets the required standards and is in line with the latest public health guidance, including any guidance specific to London.



What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What have we already done to control the risks?	What additional actions are needed on hearing days to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
<p>Risk of coronavirus spread - through contact with other people</p>	<p>Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings: the closer we are to each other, the easier it is to catch and spread coronavirus</p>	<p>The Inquiry has limited the maximum attendance at the hearings to ensure 2m social distancing is observed.</p> <p>Perspex screens have been installed at key points of high contact such as check-in and the cloakroom.</p> <p>The ventilation systems in Fleetbank House run with 100% external air intake. There will be no recirculation of internal air.</p> <p>A factsheet will be sent to everyone attending, advising them of what to expect when they come to a hearing.</p>	<p>You must not attend the hearings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are suffering with the symptoms of COVID-19 • you live with someone suffering these symptoms • you have been told by a close contact that they are getting a test for COVID-19 • you live in a very-high COVID alert level area or people in your area are being advised not to travel • you are still within the isolation period following a trip abroad • you feel unwell and aren't sure why. <p>To facilitate social distancing during the hearings everyone attending should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear a face covering, unless they are medically exempt. Sir Brian, Counsel and the witness giving evidence will not be asked to wear a face covering in the hearing room to ensure evidence can be heard clearly • respect floor markings and signs to keep 2m apart where queues may form including at the entrance, registration desk and toilets • walk on the left in corridors and staircases to maintain social distancing when moving around the building • follow the phased check-in process, to reduce queuing 	<p>The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings</p>	<p>Ongoing during hearings</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comply with the 2 person maximum lift capacity to prioritise these for people with accessibility needs. <p>In addition, a disinfectant fogging treatment will be used on the surfaces in the hearing room, lounges and other rooms each evening to reduce airborne transmission.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, such as a fire or an accident, those attending the hearings should not remain 2m apart if it would be unsafe to do so. Anyone assisting others should wash their hands at the first safe opportunity.</p>		
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Risk of coronavirus spread - through contact with surfaces	Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings: coronavirus can spread from people to surfaces	<p>The Inquiry has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided regular hand sanitisation points throughout the Inquiry's hearing spaces introduced additional signage as a reminder about hand hygiene employed additional cleaning staff to regularly clean high contact points during the hearing sessions employed a dedicated handyperson/plumber to prioritise the immediate fixing of any reported issues with hot water or hand drying facilities introduced cleaning procedures for goods entering the Inquiry's hearing spaces, including goods provided by Inquiry contractors and other external suppliers. <p>The Inquiry's facilities management provider, ISS, have put in place risk assessments, an infection control cleaning strategy and cleaning excellence processes.</p>	<p>If you attend a hearing you must sit in your assigned seat in the hearing room and lounge, to limit contact points and to support social distancing. People attending from the same household will be assigned seats together.</p> <p>All refreshments will be individually packaged.</p> <p>The cleaning team will be frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects that are touched regularly, such as door handles and light switches. They will also thoroughly clean surfaces, including floors and sofas, throughout the Inquiry's hearing spaces and common areas such as the staircase, toilets and reception area each evening.</p> <p>In addition, a disinfectant fogging treatment will be used on the surfaces in the hearing room, lounges and other rooms each evening to reduce airborne transmission.</p>	The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings	Ongoing during hearings

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What have we already done to control the risks?	What additional actions are needed on hearing days to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
<p>Risk of coronavirus spread following an attendee or staff member becoming symptomatic or receiving a positive test result.</p>	<p>Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings</p>	<p>Everyone who would like to attend will be asked to think about the risks and benefits before registering for the hearings.</p> <p>During registration you will be required to provide contact details which may be requested by the NHS Test and Trace service in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Fleetbank House. An NHS QR code is also displayed by the registration desk.</p> <p>Everyone attending will be required to inform NHS Test and Trace if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after leaving Fleetbank House.</p>	<p>You must not attend the hearings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are suffering with the symptoms of COVID-19 • you live with someone suffering these symptoms • you have been told by a close contact that they are getting a test for COVID-19 • you live in a very-high COVID alert level area or people in your area are being advised not to travel • you are still within the isolation period following a trip abroad • you feel unwell and aren't sure why. <p>If you become unwell while travelling to, or while attending, a hearing you will be advised to return home and to follow the latest public health guidance. A first aider will be at the hearings and Inquiry staff will be available to assist you in making any travel arrangements.</p> <p>In the event that anyone who was present at, or had recently attended, an Inquiry hearing develops symptoms of, or tests positive for COVID-19, Inquiry staff will follow the processes outlined in the Inquiry covid protocol. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting an immediate risk assessment • carrying out enhanced cleaning of the Inquiry hearing spaces and communal 	<p>The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings</p>	<p>Ongoing during hearings</p>

			<p>building areas in line with that risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• working with NHS Test and Trace or the local health protection team as required. <p>Inquiry staff will provide updates on the Inquiry website of any changes to the timetable.</p> <p>Inquiry staff will continue to monitor changes to public health guidance including any guidance specific to London.</p>		
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