



## Autumn 2021 hearings

**Date:** 21 September - 7 October

**Registration:** To ensure the Inquiry is able to adhere to social distancing measures, only people who have registered in advance will be able to attend.

**Timetable:** The hearing venue will be open from 9am for registration. Hearings will start from 10am. There will be a one hour lunch break, and a mid morning and a mid afternoon break.

**Location:** 5th Floor, Aldwych House, 71-91 Aldwych, London, WC2B 4HN. This [link](#) will show you how to reach the Inquiry by public transport. The nearest car park is at [NCP car park in Covent Garden, 20 Parker Mews, London, WC2B 5NT](#) - a five minute walk.

**Coronavirus:** You must not attend the hearings if there is any risk that you have coronavirus or you feel unwell and aren't sure why. We are asking everyone who plans to attend the hearings to take a lateral flow test, and to only come to the hearing centre if the result is negative. You can order free lateral flow tests [here](#).

The Inquiry has adapted the hearing venue to reduce the risks from coronavirus in line with our [risk assessment](#). The closer we are to each other, the easier it is to catch and spread coronavirus. You will have an assigned seat in the hearing room and lounge and we ask you to keep a 2m distance from other attendees outside your own household and to wear a face covering unless you are medically exempt. Hand sanitisation points will be available throughout the venue.

**Hearings:** The Chair of the Inquiry is Sir Brian Langstaff. Questioning of witnesses will be led by Jenni Richards QC. The schedule of witnesses is on the Inquiry website.

**Privacy:** We request that no one takes photos or films inside the building to protect the identity and privacy of those attending.



**Wellbeing:** The wellbeing of people watching the Inquiry is extremely important. The Chair understands that people may need to take a break from the main room at any point, and the

proceedings will be shown on screens in other rooms. The Inquiry's British Red Cross team offers confidential psychological support. Members of the team will be at the hearings and the phone line is available from Monday between 11am and 1pm, Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm, and Friday between 2pm and 4pm on 0800 458 9473 and 0203 417 0280. If you would prefer to call at another time, you can leave a message and the team will call you back as soon as possible, and on the same day where practical.

**Memorial:** You can contribute to the memorial sculpture, made up of messages in small bottles about a loved one, yourself or whatever you feel is most important. If you want to think about your message/s before you come to the hearing, the piece of paper is about five by two inches so it can be scrolled and put into a bottle, and you are welcome to write on both sides or keep your message private. If you are not able to attend a hearing but would like to contribute, you are welcome to contact the Inquiry team who will ensure your message is included.

**Media:** The hearings will be filmed and live-streamed. People attending will not be shown on camera. Journalists will be wearing yellow lanyards for identification. Broadcast and print media have been requested not to film people without their permission. They will not be filming individuals in the hearing room but they may conduct interviews in specific areas of Aldwych House or outside.

**Refreshments:** Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided. All refreshments will be individually packaged.

**Expenses:** Details of how to claim expenses for attending a hearing can be found [here](#).

**Hearing loop:** For those who require it, hearing loop devices are available at the Inquiry reception.

**Luggage:** Coats and luggage can be stored securely in the Inquiry cloakroom.

**Fire arrangements:** In the event of a fire, please keep calm and do not panic - Inquiry staff will guide you from the building. On leaving Aldwych House, please disperse and move away from the building for 30 minutes. Afterwards, please return to the designated muster point outside the Royal Courts of Justice where you will be told whether it is safe to re-enter Aldwych House.

For any further queries please contact the Infected Blood Inquiry Team on 0808 169 1377 or by emailing [contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk).