



# Newsletter

December 2022  
Issue 19

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

We have now held the Inquiry's final hearings about the evidence and the end of the Inquiry is increasingly becoming the focus of the team's work. Sir Brian has asked anyone who would like to make a witness statement or to speak to an intermediary to contact the Inquiry before the end of the year. This is necessary so that those new contributions can be completed before the Inquiry reports. In the meantime, in January we will hold hearings for the closing statements, on which you will find some more information below.

## January Hearings

These hearings are the opportunity for the recognised legal representatives of core participants, and the small number of unrepresented core participants, to make their closing statements to the Inquiry. Unlike previous hearings, Inquiry Counsel Jenni Richards and her team will not be asking questions.

As before, Sir Brian will ask questions if he requires some clarification. The closing statements will set out what core participants would like Sir Brian to conclude and recommend in the final report. At the end of the hearings, on Friday 3 February, time has been allocated to Inquiry Counsel to clarify any factual inaccuracies.



## Local meetings autumn 2022

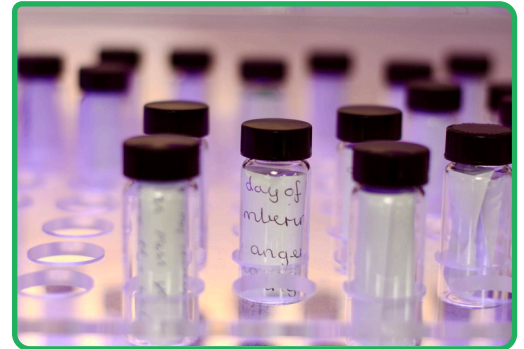
In October we met almost 200 Inquiry participants at twelve in-person (and two online) meetings in cities across the UK. Many of the people attending had been following the Inquiry for some time. Nearly every meeting also included people talking to the Inquiry team, and meeting other participants, for the first time.



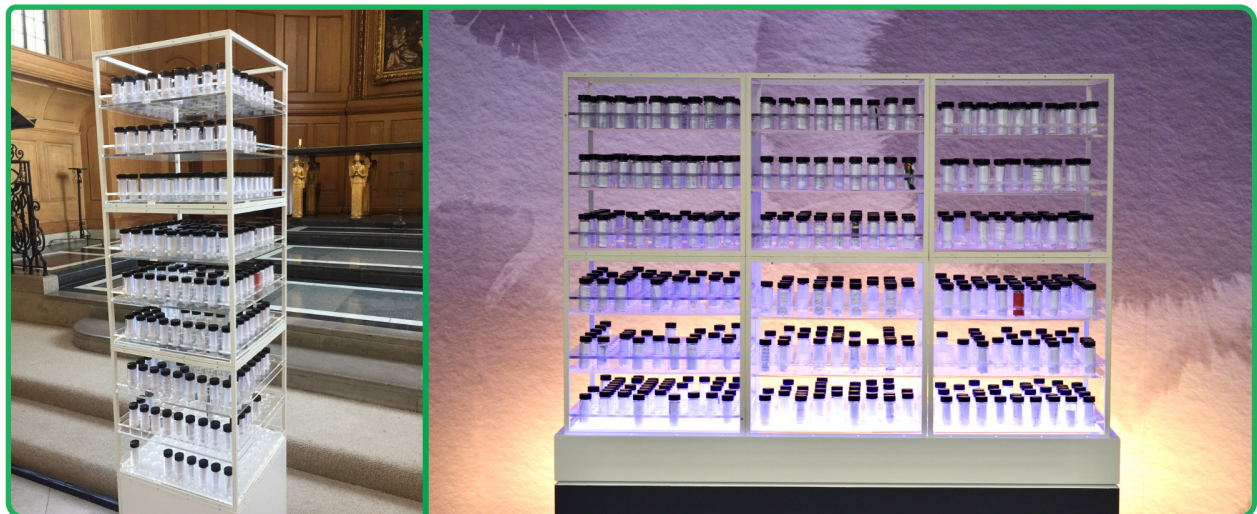
Each session covered very similar issues, including recent Inquiry witnesses, eligibility for the interim payments, lack of progress on broader compensation and the Robert Francis report, concerns about the lack of healthcare follow-up for people infected with hepatitis C, and suggestions on how best to present Sir Brian's final report and mark the end of the Inquiry.

## Memorial

The memorial has been with the Inquiry since the opening hearings at Church House in September 2018. It travelled with us when we heard evidence from people infected and affected in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Leeds and Belfast, and messages continue to be added by participants. Everyone connected with the Inquiry is very welcome to contribute.



People who have not been able to come to London have done this by sending us the message they would like to include. The piece of paper is about 5 by 2 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. Please just let us know your wishes when you get in touch with the team through our contact email address or by phone.



The memorial at Church House in 2018, and the memorial now

### Infected Blood Inquiry contact details

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### 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