



Newsletter

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Issue 21

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

Sir Brian is now immersed in drafting his final report, supported by the Inquiry's legal and counsel teams. Processing criticisms and preparation for archiving are current priorities for the Inquiry's legal and information teams. And the work required to publish the final witness statements is on track.

It's clear from the recent local meetings that this period with less visible activity by the Inquiry brings its own challenges. The Inquiry's British Red Cross team understands this and is available for all the Inquiry's participants - this is your service, so please don't hesitate to contact them (details overleaf).

Local Meetings

In April and May this year, we met over 400 Inquiry participants at 17 in-person meetings in cities across the UK (with another online). It was good to be able to go back to places we hadn't visited since before the 2020 covid lockdown.

Each meeting included people with a lot of experience of the Inquiry as well as others attending their first Inquiry event. It is enormously valuable for the Inquiry that so many participants felt able to express their views, and we appreciate the time people gave to doing this.



A few locations we visited: Derry, Inverness and Bangor

Each session covered very similar issues, with many troubled by the lack of progress on compensation or formal response to the report by Sir Robert Francis and Sir Brian's second interim report. In addition, as we draw nearer to the publication of the Inquiry's final report, there was a great deal of interest in the handling of criticisms and the arrangements for publication.

Report by the Inquiry Intermediaries

Last week we published a second report by the Inquiry's team of three intermediaries. When they gave evidence in February 2020, Sir Brian commented that the intermediaries had given the people who spoke to them a voice, had demonstrated empathy in the way they did their work, and that their report resonated with the evidence the Inquiry had heard directly from people infected and affected.



Over the past months the team have talked to members of twelve families, whose experiences are covered in the supplementary report. The intermediaries record that they were humbled by the courage and dignity of the people they interviewed. You can find both reports, and the transcript of the evidence session with the intermediaries, on the [Inquiry website](#).

New Website Page for Support Groups

We have added a [new page](#) to the Inquiry website with the different support groups for people infected and affected. The website information links through to the groups, some of which are run through Facebook, and some in other ways.



Infected Blood Inquiry contact details

Tel: 0808 169 1377

Email: contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

Address:

Infected Blood Inquiry - 5th Floor
Aldwych House, 71-91 Aldwych, London
WC2B 4HN

Twitter: [@bloodinquiry](#)

Website: www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

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