



Newsletter

April
Issue 3

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

We held 25 local meetings across the UK in the first quarter of this year. Our chair, Sir Brian, very much appreciates the contributions made by everyone who attended the meetings. It is extremely valuable for the Inquiry team to understand the questions on your mind, so please don't hesitate to contact us by email or phone as you continue to follow the Inquiry.



From top to bottom: ICC Belfast Waterfront Hall, London Fleetbank House, Cardiff Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Leeds Crowne Plaza Hotel & Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Public Hearings to begin on 30 April

Hearings begin in London on 30 April and will continue across the UK at venues in Belfast, Leeds, Edinburgh & Cardiff.

All of the hearings are being filmed and will be live-streamed to our YouTube page which can be found through our website during the hearings and afterwards. Transcripts will also be placed on the Inquiry website at the end of each day.

Witnesses are currently being selected and a schedule will be published prior to each set of hearings. Priority seating will be arranged for witnesses, and their close friends and family.

The team from the British Red Cross who have been providing confidential psychological support since September will be attending all hearings, and the phone service will also continue.

Registration is open for all sessions, so if you know the dates and venues you wish to attend, please register now at www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/witness-hearings or get in touch with us by phone or email.

Updating your communication preferences

We want to stay in touch with everyone who is on our mailing list, but only if they find it helpful. If you would prefer to receive our newsletters immediately by email, please get in touch with us to update your preferred method of communication.

Alternatively, if you no longer wish to be contacted by the Inquiry, then please let us know.

How the Public Hearings will work

Hearings will generally take place from Tuesday to Friday, beginning at around 10am and ending around 3:30pm, though witnesses will be given as long as needed for their evidence to be heard. There will be a private room where witnesses can prepare, before they take an oath and share their personal testimony. There will also be breaks during the day between each witness and over lunch.

Priority seating in each hearing space will be for people who are supporting a witness, with the next priority group the people infected and/or affected who have registered with the Inquiry team. There will be separate seating for legal teams and the media.

The other rooms at each location will include a lounge area with screens showing the live broadcast of the hearing, where it will be possible to chat and make phone calls. There will also be a quiet room and a room for one-to-one psychological support which will be provided by the British Red Cross team who have been working with the Inquiry since September.

Infected Blood Inquiry

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Contributing to the Memorial

If you are attending the hearings in London, Belfast, Leeds, Edinburgh and Cardiff, you may wish to consider contributing to the memorial sculpture created during the commemoration on the first day of the preliminary hearings in September.

A group of long-term campaigners, working with a creative team, developed the idea of writing a message on a small scroll to place in a bottle. The message could be about a loved one, yourself or whatever you feel is most important. If you would like to contribute to this, you might want to think about your message/s before you come to a hearing. 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.

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 in the memorial.

Confidential support

You can contact the confidential support team directly by calling 0800 458 9473 or 0203 417 0280 at these times:

Monday between 11am and 1pm; Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm; and Friday between 2pm and 4pm.

You can also leave a message at other times and the team will call you back as soon as possible.