

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

This newsletter updates you on two sets of events in the first months of next year. There will be a week of expert hearings at the end of February, on which there is more information below. The Inquiry will also be holding local meetings across the UK from late January. We hope these will be an opportunity to answer your questions about the Inquiry's work, and also give you the opportunity to meet other people participating in the Inquiry.

As Sir Brian explained on the last day of the autumn hearings, the Inquiry is now entering a less publicly visible phase. The enormous task of gathering and reviewing evidence continues, with the Inquiry team reviewing material from almost 600 different organisations, repositories, archives, trusts, haemophilia centres and government bodies. Alongside this, the team also continue to take statements from individual witnesses.

Redesigning the Inquiry Memorial

The Inquiry memorial, created initially by people attending the commemoration which opened the preliminary hearings in September 2018, has received many more contributions during the hearings held across the UK this year. The original design was no longer suitable so we asked Art Lewry, who designed the commemoration and memorial, to develop a new structure.

Many people attending the October hearings told us that they thought the new design and backdrop added to the emotional power of the memorial and we hope that the photo here will give you a good sense of how it looks.

New sections can be added and you are all welcome to contribute your message throughout the Inquiry, either in person if you come to a hearing, or by contacting the Inquiry team who will be able to add your message to the memorial for you.



Infected Blood Inquiry contact details

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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

Expert Hearings

In the week beginning Monday 24 February, the Inquiry will hear evidence from our independent experts for the first time. Many important issues have already been raised by people who are infected and affected, related to the impact of the medical conditions they were diagnosed with, both for themselves, and their loved ones. The aim of these hearings is to establish the clinical context for those conditions, and consider their care and treatment from a modern perspective.

The expert groups have been asked to write reports on psychosocial impact, hepatitis, HIV, haemophilia and other bleeding and blood disorders. In addition, the Inquiry's team of intermediaries will provide a report on the interviews they have completed with people who wished to contribute to the Inquiry in this way.

The reports will be made public ahead of the hearings, and Inquiry counsel will draw on them to explore the experts' views in line with the timetable below. The reports will not comment on the specific treatment or decision-making for any of the individuals who have given evidence to the Inquiry.



- Monday 24 February - the Inquiry's intermediaries and the psychosocial group, considering the impact on people infected and affected
- Tuesday 25 February - further evidence from the psychosocial group
- Wednesday 26 February - clinical experts on current knowledge about hepatitis, including current and past treatments and their consequences
- Thursday 27 February - clinical experts on current knowledge about HIV, including current and past treatments and their consequences
- Friday 28 February - clinical experts on current knowledge about haemophilia, other blood and bleeding disorders and primary immunodeficiencies

You can register your interest in attending the expert hearings by contacting the Inquiry via phone, email or by visiting our [website](#).

Local Meetings

In early 2020 we will be holding local meetings across the UK to provide updates on the work of the Inquiry to people who have been infected or affected. This will be an opportunity to find out about the Inquiry's work and meet others living in the same area.

Leeds - 20 January	Belfast - 3 March
Manchester - 21 January	Derry - 4 March
London - 30 January	Plymouth - 13 March
Bristol - 4 February	Cardiff - 16 March
Birmingham - 6 February	Swansea - 17 March
Nottingham - 7 February	London - 24 March
Tunbridge Wells - 11 February	Newcastle - 27 March
Norwich - 13 February	Carlisle - 30 March
Bangor - 17 February	Glasgow - 31 March
Liverpool - 18 February	Perth - 1 April
Bournemouth - 20 February	Inverness - 2 April

You can register to attend by visiting our [website](#) or by contacting the Inquiry by phone or email.