



# Newsletter

June  
Issue 4

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

The Inquiry has now completed several weeks of hearing personal testimony in London, Belfast and Leeds. There has been good coverage across national and regional TV, radio and newspapers. I hope this has helped to bring the hearings closer to those of you who have not been able to attend in person. The Inquiry Red Cross team, who have been working with the Inquiry since September, continue to attend every hearing to provide support and their confidential psychological support is also available via telephone (details overleaf) if you would find it helpful.

## Update on the hearings and next steps

The witness hearings are now well under way across the UK and will continue in Edinburgh and Cardiff in July. The Inquiry has heard from people infected with HIV, hepatitis C and other viruses; from people who lost their much loved life partner, child, parent or sibling; from people who were infected themselves and then had a completely different life from the one they had planned.

The Inquiry team would like to thank everyone who has given evidence so far. We recognise how hard it is to give evidence about such difficult experiences and appreciate the courage it takes to do this. The evidence heard so far has been valuable in furthering the Inquiry's work. The team also thanks everyone attending the hearings, following online and supporting people giving evidence.



Chair of the Inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff and Secretary to the Inquiry, Jennifer Cole arriving at the Leeds witness hearings.

## 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.

## Infected Blood Inquiry

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## Update on the Inquiry

### Evidence

The public hearings are the visible part of the Inquiry. The majority of the Inquiry's work is carried out away from public view, with about 130 staff doing detailed investigative reviews of documents, records and other information going back decades.

The Inquiry has completed the hardcopy search of 2.5 million pages of information held by the Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, and is now searching their electronic material. The Inquiry has also reviewed approximately 3 million hard copy pages of material held by NHS Blood and Transplant, with another 4.7 million pages and further electronic material to come.

These teams have carried out electronic searches and reviewed hard copy material held by the Welsh Government, the Welsh Blood Service, the Northern Ireland Government, the Northern Ireland Blood and Transplant Service, the Public Records Office Northern Ireland and other core participant organisations in Northern Ireland, the Scottish Government and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service.

Approximately 12,000 electronic documents and 63 hardcopy boxes of materials have been delivered to the Inquiry by BioProducts Laboratory Ltd and disclosure exercises are underway in relation to a number of the pharmaceutical companies.

The photos show some of the boxes and files being reviewed at the Inquiry's premises in Fleetbank House. The Inquiry also has a team based at the National Archives in Kew, where they are reviewing government documents such as ministerial and committee records.



## 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.