



Fleetbank House  
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London  
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2 August 2018

### **Infected Blood Inquiry - Preliminary Hearings in September**

I would like to update you on the Inquiry and provide you with further information about the preliminary hearings which the Inquiry is holding in Church House, London, from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 September.

These hearings will be an opportunity for core participants or their legal representatives to make opening statements about the issues in the Terms of Reference which they would like the Inquiry to prioritise. The Inquiry will not be hearing evidence at these preliminary hearings.

On Monday 24 September the hearings will start in the morning with a commemoration for the people infected and affected over the past decades. After a break for lunch, I will open the preliminary hearings and Jenni Richards QC, Counsel to the Inquiry, will make an opening statement on Monday afternoon, outlining how the Inquiry proposes to carry out its work. Core participants, or their legal representatives, will then have the following two days for any opening statements they wish to make.

The preliminary hearings will be transmitted through the inquiry website so it will be possible to follow the proceedings without travelling to London. However, we expect that many of you will wish to attend the hearings for at least some of the time. I should emphasise that it is not necessary to attend for the full three days: however Church House has plenty of space for those of you who would

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like to attend, including a separate room for people who may want to follow the live transmission separately (or to avoid being filmed). I have also arranged for trained counsellors to be on hand in private rooms, and there is a chapel for quiet reflection. If you would like to come to Church House, please contact the Inquiry at [contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk)

The Inquiry will pay reasonable expenses so that people infected and/or affected can attend these hearings, and guidance on expenses is on the Inquiry website. Church House is fully accessible and the Inquiry has booked a number of rooms for people to gather away from the main hearing chamber. Further details on Church House are at <https://www.churchhouseconf.co.uk/>

It is important to emphasise that people with relevant evidence do not have to become core participants, and there is no additional value attached to evidence provided by a core participant. Core participants are, in essence, people who take an interest in the Inquiry, and its workings, beyond their personal experience. They can suggest lines of investigation or questioning which they consider should be pursued by the Inquiry and may have earlier access than others to some Inquiry documents.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has expressed an interest in providing evidence to the Inquiry. I have received over 1,000 responses so far. The Inquiry team is currently reviewing these and will shortly be contacting people who have expressed an interest about the next steps. There is still time to submit a form if you have not yet had the opportunity, and I would encourage you to do so,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Langstaff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Sir Brian Langstaff

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