



Newsletter

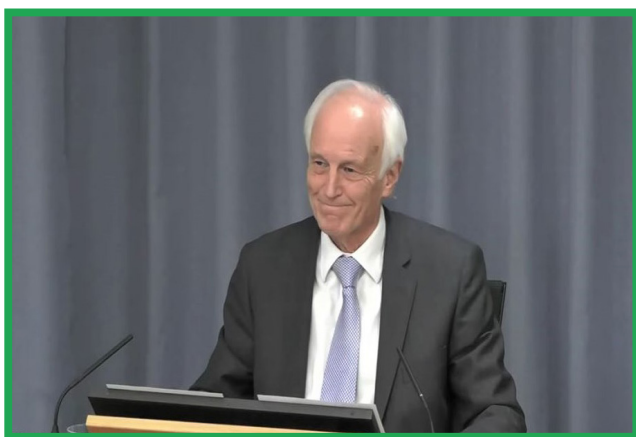
March 2023
Issue 20

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

We are now in the last phase of the Inquiry, after four and a half years of hearings, and evidence gathering. We are very pleased that our wonderful team of Red Cross volunteers will continue to support participants until after the Inquiry reports. You can read a message from our Red Cross colleagues below as well as some information about the Inquiry's work and the local meetings we will be holding in spring (spaces still available!).

Inquiry's work this year

On 3 February, the last day of the Inquiry's public hearings, Sir Brian began his closing words by thanking participants for all the different ways in which you have contributed to the Inquiry. Sir Brian explained that he would now be focused on writing his reports, the first being the interim report on compensation which we expect to publish before Easter. Sir Brian will then turn to the Inquiry's final report which will be published in the autumn.



The Inquiry team will be supporting Sir Brian by - alongside other tasks - ensuring that anyone due to be criticised in the final report is informed of this, that the thousands of documents reviewed by the Inquiry team have been archived appropriately and that the witness statements submitted by people infected and affected have been prepared for publication on the Inquiry's website.

Message from our British Red Cross team

Coming together and meeting so many of you at the hearings has been a truly special experience and we feel very fortunate that you have welcomed us into the Inquiry since September 2018.

We really appreciated the comments and words of appreciation for our team from the Inquiry participants who came to the last week of the hearings. We feel that we are an integral part of the Inquiry and trust that our support has helped, in some small way, to make you feel a little less alone and a little more understood.

Although we may not be seeing you in person, our support line is still operating with the same volunteer team who you have been meeting and speaking to on the phone. You will find details on our service below, and on the Inquiry website.

As we continue on this journey with you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



We are here to support you through these next months, just as we have for the last four years.

Inquiry Meetings Spring 2023

After Easter we will be holding in-person meetings in Bangor, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Inverness, Cardiff, Bristol, Plymouth, London, Norwich, Bournemouth, Nottingham, Birmingham, Belfast and Derry.

We have tried to spread these meetings across the UK, with two each in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. We will also hold one of our regular monthly online meetings during this period.

There is no expectation that anyone coming to a meeting is an expert in the Inquiry's work - it is always good to meet people coming to their first meeting as well as Inquiry "veterans". We want the meetings to feel welcoming for everyone, as our aim is to give you the opportunity to ask questions of the Inquiry team, and to discuss the Inquiry's work with other participants who live in the same part of the country.

You can find more information on how to sign up for a meeting on our website.

Infected Blood Inquiry contact details

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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