



Newsletter

December
Issue 1

Message from Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Inquiry

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Inquiry Engagement team. I have made a commitment that people should be at the heart of this Inquiry. One of the ways we want to achieve that is to keep everyone updated on the work of the Inquiry.

I know this time of year can be one of mixed emotions but it would be remiss of me not to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes
Sir Brian Langstaff



The memorial sculpture in the chapel at Church House, now kept in the Inquiry premises.

Local Meetings with the Inquiry Team

In the first few months of 2019, we will be holding local meetings for people who have been infected and/or affected. This is an opportunity to find out the latest updates on the work of the Inquiry and for you to talk to the Inquiry Team in a convenient location.

The team will be in these locations during the early part of 2019:

Nottingham – 29 January	Hastings – 5 March
Birmingham – 30 January	Cardiff – 7 March
London – 7 February	Bristol – 8 March
Newcastle – 12 February	Norwich – 12 March
Carlisle – 13 February	Southampton – 19 March
Liverpool – 26 February	Dungannon – 26 March
Manchester – 27 February	Plymouth – 29 March
Leeds – 28 February	Glasgow – March TBC

You can register your interest to attend a local meeting by visiting www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/events or you can get in touch by phone or email.

Contact details:

Tel: 0808 169 1377

Email:

contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

Address: Fleetbank House,
1st Floor, 2-6 Salisbury
Square,
London EC4Y 8AE

Twitter: @bloodinquiry

Website:

www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

Confidential support

The Inquiry recognises participating in the Inquiry can be difficult and has organised a confidential support line staffed by the British Red Cross.

The number is 0800 458 9473 and calls are answered between these times:

Monday between 11am and 1 pm

Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm

Friday between 2pm and 4pm

Outside these hours, you can leave a message, which will usually be answered the next day.

Update on the Inquiry

Witness Statements and Hearings

The team is focusing on obtaining witness statements to prepare for the first stage of the hearings, which are due to start on 30 April 2019 in London and will be followed by hearings in Belfast, Leeds, Edinburgh and Cardiff. The Inquiry expects to receive over 2300 statements from people infected and/or affected over the coming months.

Core Participants

The Inquiry has now appointed around 1400 core participants, the vast majority of whom were infected and/or affected. This is the largest number involved in a public inquiry in the UK.

Evidence

The Inquiry has formal powers to request evidence and has done this from the NHS and Department of Health, other departments in the four national governments, 70 different hospital trusts, the various trusts and funds, charities, pharmaceutical companies, police forces and individuals.

Medical Records

Medical records are not essential if you are providing your personal evidence to the Inquiry. However, many people want to refer to their records to help them in recalling the details what happened. There is information about how to obtain medical records on the Inquiry website (and the NHS has agreed that no fees will be charged for people involved in the Inquiry). If you don't have access to this, please call our contact number and one of the team will advise you.

Expenses

The Inquiries Act and Rules allow for reasonable costs to be refunded and we encourage people that are travelling to events to claim travel expenses.

To claim a refund, all you need to do is complete an Inquiry Expenses Claim Form, providing us with your personal details, bank account details and details of expense, including receipts. For further information, please contact: finance@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk or 0808 169 1377.

Please ensure you read the updated guidance on expenses before making any bookings and claiming expenses.

Telephone Update

We have now extended our telephone service to take calls Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm. Outside of those hours there is a voicemail service.