

The Inquiry's public hearings start on 30 April this year, and over 11 weeks Sir Brian Langstaff will hear directly from people who were infected by blood or blood products, and from the people close to them who were affected by this. These hearings will take place across the UK on the dates set out below.

It will be possible to register to attend hearings on specific days once the Inquiry publishes the details of who is giving evidence. We are aiming to do this in stages, with details for the first weeks of hearings expected in early April.

Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary

Public Hearings

Public hearings will take place across the UK on the dates set out below:

Location	Date	Venue
London	30 April - 3 May & 7 May - 10 May	Fleetbank House
Belfast	21 May - 24 May	Belfast International Conference Centre
London	4 June - 7 June	Fleetbank House
Leeds	11 June - 14 June & 18 June - 21 June	Crowne Plaza Hotel
Edinburgh	2 July - 5 July & 8 July - 11 July	Edinburgh International Conference Centre
Cardiff	23 - 26 July	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
London	8 - 11 October & 15 - 18 October	Fleetbank House

We have also today published a document (enclosed with this newsletter) that explains how the Chair of the Inquiry will decide who will be asked to give oral evidence during the hearings.

Given that we are expecting approximately 2500 written statements, it is not possible for everyone to give oral evidence. However, every written statement will be read by the Chair and inform his findings. We expect that around 120 people will be able to give evidence during this phase of hearings. There will be further opportunities for people infected and affected to give oral evidence later in the Inquiry.

Expenses

We would like to remind people attending the local meetings and hearings that you can claim expenses for your travel.

To claim a refund, you need to 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.

Inquiry Intermediaries

Some people have told the Inquiry that they would not feel comfortable with giving a witness statement in the traditional way. To ensure that these people can still share their experience with the Inquiry, we have recruited three people (Jackie Wilson, Pam Allen and Kay Durrant) to act as “intermediaries”. Pam, Kay and Jackie are experienced in social care and policing: they will visit people who would like to share their experience through a conversation, and provide summary reports to the Chair of the Inquiry covering the themes gathered from conversations with a number of people.



As with the witness statements, every report will be read by the Chair and his team, and published with other Inquiry evidence. The intermediaries may be asked to speak about their reports during the Inquiry’s hearings.

If you are interested in talking to an intermediary please contact the Inquiry Team on freephone 0808 169 1377 or email contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk.

Infected Blood Inquiry Contact details:

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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 - 1 pm
Wednesday between 7pm - 9pm
Friday between 2pm - 4pm

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

Local Meetings with the Inquiry Team

We are holding local meetings around the UK for people affected and/or infected. Please see below the remaining meetings that will take place before the public hearings:

Newcastle - 12 February	Cardiff – 7 March (please note, the morning session is now full)
Carlisle - 13 February	Norwich – 12 March
Liverpool – 26 February	Southampton – 19 March
Manchester – 27 February (please note, the morning session is now full)	*Perth – 23 March
Leeds – 28 February	Dungannon – 26 March
Hastings – 5 March	Plymouth – 29 March
Bristol – 8 March	

This is an opportunity to find out the latest updates on the work of the Inquiry and for you to ask any questions of the Inquiry Team.

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.

* Please note; this was previously advertised in Glasgow, but will now take place in Perth.