



Newsletter

July 2021
Issue 14

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

Over the last year, the Inquiry has held almost 50 online meetings with Inquiry participants using zoom. This has worked well for lots of people and it is something that we will continue until the Inquiry ends. However, we are aware that this option does not work for everyone. We are thinking of trying out some “phone only” meetings so please let us know if you would like to join one. In the meantime, we’ve provided some information over the page about written statements as we’ve had a lot of questions about these at the meetings.

External repositories reopening for Inquiry investigation

Teams are again scouring external repositories, searching for documents of potential relevance to the Inquiry. Public as well as institutional repositories are included in this round and all archives are being helpful in facilitating the Inquiry.

However, due to the very nature of historic filing, often very limited information is available. Sometimes when labelling is poor, teams have found themselves opening files not previously seen for the last 100 years! However, we continue to work on the basis of opening unknown files as you never know what will be found.

Significant material has been and will continue to be unearthed in the unlikeliest of locations.

It is fortunate that this is a part of my job that I find so rewarding. It is extremely gratifying to return to archives, and identify documents which will help Sir Brian to get answers to the questions the Inquiry is striving to address.

Mike Moore



Boxes of files at an archive

Written Statements provided by Inquiry Participants

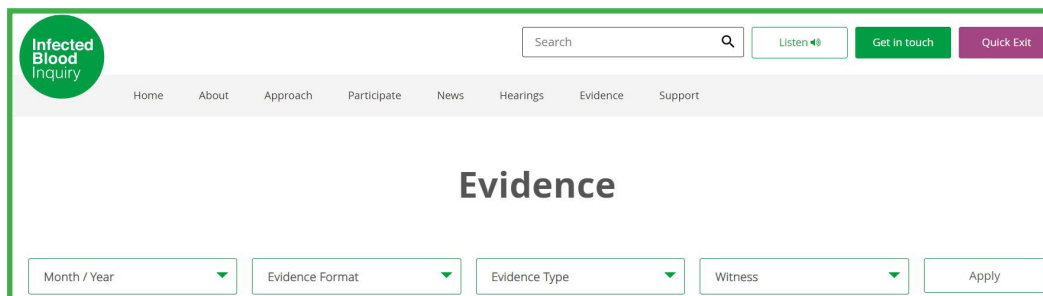
The written statements provided by people infected and affected are essential to the Inquiry's work. Over the course of the Inquiry we expect to receive well over 3,000 of these statements.

Sir Brian, the Counsel and investigation teams read every statement received to identify lines of inquiry which might be investigated further, information which is relevant when preparing for a particular set of hearings and to inform the final report.

Some participants have mentioned that they provided their statement in the first year of the Inquiry and now feel that they understand more about their family's experience and would like to amend or update their statement.

- If new documents have come to light, these can be provided to the Inquiry and added to the statement. There is no need for an additional statement in this case.
- If significant new information is identified, the legal representative can request funding to provide a further statement. However, this additional funding will only be agreed if the Chair considers the information is significant in relation to the Inquiry's terms of reference.

All statements will be published on the Inquiry's website before the end of the Inquiry. The Inquiry team has to ensure that all statements are properly redacted before publication, to remove personal information that should not be made public. This process takes time and about 750 statements have been published so far. Everyone is given written notice before their statement is placed on the website.



The screenshot shows the 'Evidence' page of the Infected Blood Inquiry website. At the top left is the 'Infected Blood Inquiry' logo. To the right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Further right are buttons for 'Listen', 'Get in touch', and 'Quick Exit'. Below these is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'About', 'Approach', 'Participate', 'News', 'Hearings', 'Evidence', and 'Support'. The main heading is 'Evidence'. At the bottom, there are five filter boxes: 'Month / Year', 'Evidence Format', 'Evidence Type', 'Witness', and 'Apply'.

Infected Blood Inquiry 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

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