

February

5

2024



Update

Please see our other easy read information if you want to know more about the Inquiry.

Hearing Update



Hearings are meetings where we listen to information.

Today we hear **evidence** from

- hospital staff and
- people who visited the hospital to work with patients and families.

Evidence is anything that you see, experience, read, or are told that helps us find out what happened.

We will hear staff evidence in weeks starting

- 19 February 2024
- 04 March 2024 and
- 08 April 2024.



In weeks starting 11 and 25 March 2024 we will hear evidence about

- laws and rules
- decision-making and staff
- service checks and reports.



March

18

We will not be hearing evidence in the week starting 18 March 2024.



We are getting ready to take evidence from organisations in the week starting 15 April 2024.



We will hear 10 types of organisation evidence.

1. Patient advocacy and representation

How patients were supported to have their voices heard.



2. Professional education

Whether staff had the right training to do their jobs.



3. Regulation

How services were checked to see if they ran well.

4. RQIA

How RQIA checked services and made them better.



5. PSNI

How the Police Service were involved.

6. Resettlement

How people were moved out of hospital to homes that could support their needs.



7. Operational management

How the hospital was run.

8. Professional organisation and oversight

How hospital services were run and checked.



9. Trust Board

How top decision-makers in the Trust did their jobs.

10. Department of Health

How well the government did its job.

Witness Statement A5



Witness statements say what you saw, heard and think happened.

What you say is written down and you sign it.



On Monday 29 January 2024 we shared a witness statement with **core participants**.

It was called Witness Statement A5.

This was so no one would know who gave the witness statement.

A **Core Participant** is a person or organisation who has a big role to play in what the Inquiry is about.



The Trust said parts of the statement should not have been shared.

We did not agree.

The Trust said they might take us to court.



So, we did these things.

- We covered some sentences in Witness Statement A5 so you could not read them. We then sent it to Core Participants.
- We told Core Participants to delete the old Witness Statement A5.
- We asked people to tell us what they thought.



The Inquiry Chair decided there were no reasons not to share the full Witness Statement A5.



We said we would share the full Witness Statement A5 unless we heard from Trust lawyers by 02 February.



We did not hear from the Trust lawyers so the full Witness Statement A5 was shared again.

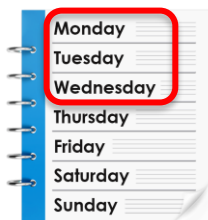
Questions about witness statements



Core Participants are given witness statements 7 working days before a witness gives evidence.



Core Participants can give us questions for the witnesses.



Core Participants must give us their questions 3 working days before the witness gives evidence.

This gives us time to decide if we will ask their questions.



To have your questions looked at more carefully they should be

- on time and
- about things that only that witness could answer.



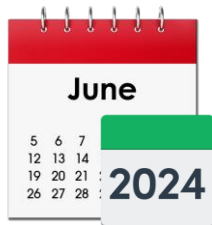
Pages of questions are not helpful.



Sometimes we might not give you the witness statement on time.

If this happens then we are more likely to look at questions that are late.

Finishing hearings



We want to finish hearing all evidence by the end of June 2024.

This will be hard, but we hope to make it happen.