

December

14

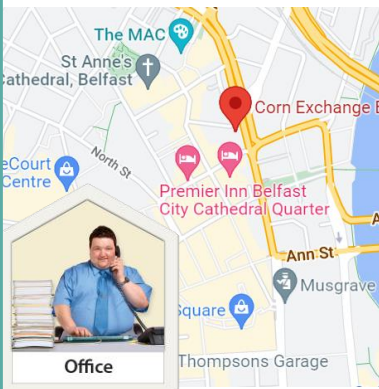
2021



# Update

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

## Getting our offices ready



We are getting our new offices and meeting rooms ready.

**We will be moving into the new office in the Corn Exchange Building in Belfast in January 2022.**

## How we will look after information



Information that is written or typed is called a document.

We will look after documents by using a computer system called Box.



Box will help us sort and share documents. Box is good at keeping information confidential and safe.

Government departments and other large organisations use Box.



We will be trained on how to use Box.

## Witness Statements

Cleaver  
Fulton  
Rankin



We have asked a Belfast law firm to help write down **witness statements**.

A **witness statement** is your story about what happened and what you saw. After it is written down by someone it is signed by you.



### Training

Everyone involved in writing down witness statements will get training on how best to support people. Professor Penny Cooper will give this training.

### Intermediaries

The Department of Justice will help us find **intermediaries**.



**Intermediaries** can help make it easier for you tell your story. They can explain questions or help others understand what you say. They do not change the meaning of what you say.

## Core Participants and lawyers



A **core participant** is a person or organisation who has had a big role to play in what the Inquiry is about.

There are laws about

- who can be a Core Participant
- who can be a lawyer for the Inquiry
- and whether or not to give money to those lawyers.

PHOENIX LAW  
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS



11 people have asked to be Core Participants. They are from a group called Action for Muckamore. They have asked to use Phoenix Law Solicitors. This has been agreed.

**O'REILLY  
STEWART**  
SOLICITORS

We have asked the law firm O'Reilly Stewart to help others who want to be Core Participants.

They can help them talk to the Inquiry. They are independent from the Inquiry.

Not every witness needs to have a lawyer or be a core participant.

We will look fairly at each person who asks to be a core participant and for money to pay legal fees.

Legal fees are paid using public money. We want to use this money well. It costs more to pay lots of different law firms. We will not do this unless there is a good reason.



## Who has contacted us

80 people have contacted the Inquiry to share their story of Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

We have looked at each contact and sent a reply.

We will now start sending out letters asking people to give witness statements.

Cleaver Fulton Rankin will contact each person.

Witness statements will be taken at different times.



## Steps of the Inquiry

### Step 1



1. The Inquiry will look at evidence from those with experience of the care at Muckamore Abbey Hospital..

This could be

- patients
- ex-patients
- their relatives and carers.

These people will be the first people asked to give witness statements.

### Step 2



2. The Inquiry will look at a smaller group of people. These people will have
  - experience of caring for people at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.
  - or a good understanding of how the hospital worked.

This could be

- Nurses
- other staff working at Muckamore Abbey Hospital
- people in charge of resettlement
- people who took patients to and from Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

We will take witness statements.

We will look at all the information we have.

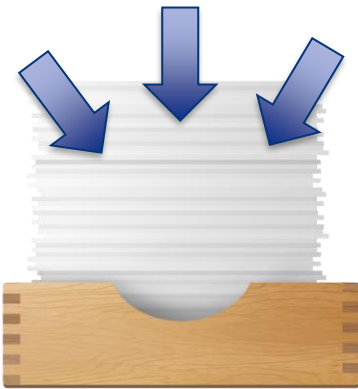
We will then look at how best to get other **evidence**.



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

We hope to begin hearing from witnesses in the Spring of 2022.

## Getting Documents for the Inquiry



The Inquiry has asked 21 services to give them documents.

Most services have given us documents quickly. A few have been given more time to give us documents.

At the moment we are looking at the documents we have. This will help us to decide if we need to ask for more documents.

## Website



Our website is always being updated with new information and documents.

You can find important Inquiry documents on our website.

If you need more information you can call us and a member of the Inquiry team will help you.