Protocol on Publication of Evidence referred to during Hearings

This protocol sets out the Inquiry's processes and procedures for the publication of evidence adduced at hearings

1. As a Statutory Inquiry, disclosure to the public at large is guided by s.18(1) Inquiries Act 2005, which requires the Chair to take such steps as she considers reasonable to secure that members of the public (including reporters) are able to obtain or to view a record of evidence and documents given, produced or provided to the inquiry.

2. The Chair considers that it is important for members of the public to have access to the evidence that is adduced in this Inquiry in a way that takes into account both (1) the significant public interest in the proceedings, but also, (2) the sensitive nature of some of the evidence, which includes information relating to victims of crime and to children.

3. This protocol should be read in conjunction with (1) the Protocol on the Disclosure of Documents, which sets out the Inquiry's approach to the receipt and handling of information; (2) the Protocol on Redaction, Anonymity and Restriction Orders, which sets out the Inquiry's processes and procedures for restrictions on disclosure and publication; and (3) the Protocol on Victim and Survivor Evidence, which sets out the way in which victims and survivors may give oral evidence.

Transcripts

4. The Inquiry will aim to publish the transcript of oral evidence by the end of each hearing day. This will ensure that the public have prompt access to the core evidence that is heard in the Inquiry.

Videos

5. Only evidence that is live streamed (broadcast via YouTube) will be available to the public. These will have a short delay, and will ordinarily also be published the following working day, subject to any restriction order or other limitation on disclosure, such as in the interests of protecting victims of crime.

6. These videos will usually remain available via YouTube until 2 weeks after the conclusion of the Inquiry, at which point they will form part of the Inquiry's archive.

Witness Statements

7. The Inquiry aims to upload all witness statements to the Inquiry's website within 7 days of the witness' oral evidence being given.

8. It may be necessary for the Inquiry legal team to conduct an exercise to ensure that no information is disclosed which is contrary to any restriction order or other limitation on disclosure, such as in the interests of protecting victims of crime, prior to publication.

9. The Inquiry will also publish witness statements from witnesses who have not given oral evidence at appropriate points within the Inquiry where it is considered that they will assist the public's understanding of the evidence.

Other Evidence

10. The Inquiry will not routinely publish documents and exhibits during the course of the hearings save where it is considered necessary, sufficiently important, and fair to do so on an urgent basis. Such documents will ordinarily be considered for public disclosure at the conclusion of the oral hearings.