

Terms of Reference



Terms of reference are instructions about what is going to be done.

The Muckamore Abbey Hospital Public Inquiry Terms of Reference will tell you exactly what the inquiry will look into.

What will the Public Inquiry do?



The Muckamore Abbey Hospital Public Inquiry is a big investigation ordered by the government that must happen by law.



It will look into the **abuse** of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.

The inquiry will

- find out why abuse happened
- and find out how abuse was allowed to happen.



It will do this to help stop abuse like this happening again.

What time period does it cover?



The Inquiry will look into anything that happened between 2nd December 1999 and 14th June 2021.

The inquiry can also look at information that happened at any time, if it helps.

The Inquiry will look at what happened.



The Inquiry will look at the type of abuse that happened to patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

It will also look at how much abuse happened and how serious the abuse was.

The word abuse is used here to mean all the different types of abuse.



1. Physical abuse

This is when someone hurts your body.

For example, hitting, kicking, biting, punching, or slapping.



2. Sexual abuse

This is when someone

- makes you do something sexual
- shows you something sexual
- or touches your body or your private parts in ways you do not like or want.

For example, making you look at sexy pictures kissing you, making you touch them, having sex with you when you do not want them to.



3. Emotional or Psychological abuse

This is when people talk to you in unkind ways. It can hurt your feelings and makes you feel sad. It can change how you think about yourself or others.

For example, teasing, threatening, swearing, ignoring you, shouting, or bullying.



4. Patient neglect

This is when staff do not look after you properly.

For example, not giving you enough food, not keeping you warm and safe, not giving you medication, not taking you to the doctors if you are ill.



5. Inappropriate or negligent care

This is when staff are not careful enough or do not pay attention to your needs. This means you get a poor quality of care.



6. Financial abuse

This is when

- people take your money or control your money
- people take your things or control your things
- or people cheat you out of your money.

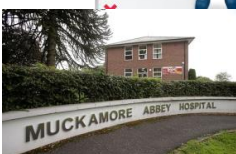


7. Any other bad behaviour towards patients.

The Inquiry will look at the part played by all staff when there has been abuse. This will include staff who work directly with patients, managers and visiting staff.



The Inquiry will look at whether people did their job right. They will check if they followed the rules.



It will see if abuse happened because of

- how things were run at Muckamore Abbey Hospital
- or problems with how things are run in the health care system in Northern Ireland.



The Inquiry will look at how staff were hired, kept, trained and supported.



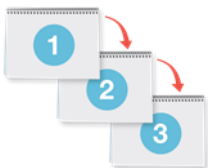
The Inquiry will look at **policies** used and ways of doing things around

- getting new staff
- keeping staff
- training staff
- supporting staff.

Policies are a set of rules about how to do things.

The Inquiry will look at management at all levels within Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

The Inquiry will look at how concerns about abuse were reported and acted on.



The Inquiry will look at

- how people could report concerns about abuse - this includes patients, families and others
- if the way concerns about abuse were reported were good enough
- what happened next when there was a report of concern about abuse.

The Inquiry will look at if people did not do their job properly.

For example

- Not spotting signs of abuse early on
- Not investigating concerns about abuse
- Not dealing with concerns about abuse.



Patient and Client Council

Your voice in health and social care

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CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

The Inquiry will look at the response of others when concerns about abuse were reported to them.

This includes the response of

- the Police Service for Northern Ireland
- the Patient and Client Council
- the Health and Safety Executive
- the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.

The Inquiry will look at the use of CCTV.



CCTV stands for Closed Circuit Television. Cameras record what is happening. This can be seen on a TV screen or watched on a video.



The Inquiry will look at the difference putting in and using CCTV at Muckamore Abbey Hospital made.

The Inquiry will look at how patients were kept safe from other patients.



It will look at what was put in place to keep patients safe from other patients. For example what was done to protect a patient from being upset by the behaviour of another patient.



They will look to see if enough was done to keep patients safe from other patients.

The Inquiry will look at resettlement.



Resettlement means moving people to a different place to live.



The Inquiry will look at whether the steps taken to resettle a patient were good enough.

For example

- telling patients they could leave Muckamore Abbey Hospital
- and helping them to move to a different place to live.

The Inquiry will look at money.



The Inquiry will think about whether there is enough money to make sure that



a. there are the right number of good staff members with the right skills and training



b. there is the right care, treatment and accommodation for patients with

- mental health conditions
- learning disabilities
- mental health conditions and learning disabilities.



It will look at legal and regulatory framework.



The Inquiry will look at

- a. laws
- b. regulatory frameworks – these are the rules and guidance that people like nurses and doctors are meant to follow
- c. and any policies, guidelines, reports or other documents about how Muckamore Abbey Hospital is run.



It will decide if these were good enough to stop abuse of patients in

- Muckamore Abbey Hospital
- and other such settings in Northern Ireland.

How will the Inquiry be run?



The person in charge is called the Chair.

They will decide

- what happens
- what can be used as evidence
- who can be called to tell their story as witnesses.

Some of the decisions about what will happen will be taken at the start of the Inquiry.



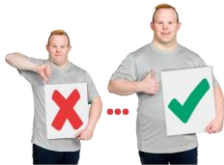
Witness services will be available during the Inquiry.

Witness Services are for witnesses who have to give important evidence. They give practical and emotional support. The service is free.

Report and recommendations



The Inquiry will give its report to the Minister of Health. The report will say what it found out.



The Inquiry will make **recommendations**.

Recommendations say what should happen next.

It will make recommendations about



a. making sure that abuse and the things that helped it happen do not happen again



b. making the training of staff and management better



c. making management, policies, systems and processes better

d. making the skills, quality and running of the **Board** of such hospitals better



Boards are a group of people whose job it is to run something – for example, a hospital.

e. the role of adult social care services and the health and social care bodies in making sure patients are kept safe through **best practice**



Best practice means good ways of doing things.



f. laws and regulatory frameworks

Regulatory frameworks these are rules to help put laws into practice.



g. whether there should be **compensation** given to the patients who were abused at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

Compensation means something, often money, given to someone who has had a loss, suffered or had an injury.



The Inquiry Chair may give a report with recommendations before the final report.