



Update

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

Evidence Update



We hoped to finish taking **evidence** about patient experiences by December 2022. This will not happen.

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



There have been problems getting **witness statements** from people part of

- Action for Muckamore
- and Society of Parents and Friends of Muckamore

Their lawyers are called Phoenix Law.

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.



December 2021

We said the first part of the Inquiry would look at patient experience.



June 2022

We said evidence would start to be taken about patient experience.

We noted only a few witness statements from

- Action for Muckamore and
- Society of Parents and Friends of Muckamore

We hoped to work with their lawyers to move things forward quickly.



August 2022

We said we wanted to complete patient experience evidence by the end of 2022. We gave 3 reasons.



1. Taking too long to get evidence is bad for the inquiry and people giving evidence.



2. We cannot take staff evidence until we have patient experience evidence. Staff should know what has been said about them so they can reply.



3. There is a consultation about closing Muckamore Abbey Hospital. We can only tell the Department of Health what we think after we have heard **evidence**. This needs to happen quickly as people still live there.



September 2022

We asked everyone to help the Inquiry by working with our lawyers to give **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.



People part of

- Action for Muckamore and
- Society of Parents and Friends of Muckamore said they would not give **witness statements** to inquiry lawyers. They gave 2 reasons.
 1. They wanted to give **witness statements** to their own lawyers.
 2. They felt worried that inquiry lawyers could cause problems for the police investigation.

We met with these groups and their lawyers.



We explained

- that different rules are used by inquiries when taking witness statements
- our lawyers would be helping the police.



We said no to Phoenix Law **taking witness statements**. These are our reasons.

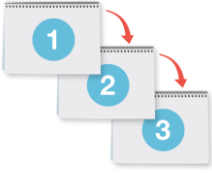
- If police work meant the Inquiry was delayed then it may not happen for a long time if at all.
- We have an agreement with the police and courts about how we work. This helps make sure the Inquiry does not harm their work. Courts are happy with how we work.
- Inquiry lawyers are independent and specially trained to take **witness statements**. They know how to keep our agreement with the police and courts. Private lawyers do not have this training. This could cause problems that mean the inquiry has to stop.
- We ask **all** individuals to give their statements to our lawyers. We should treat everyone the same to be fair.





It is important to get evidence from

- Action for Muckamore and
 - Society of Parents and Friends of Muckamore
- They are important witnesses. We want to hear from them.



We have written to Phoenix Law. We have said

1. They can be involved at every stage of statement taking.
2. **Witness statements** can be given to the Inquiry solicitor team instead of our lawyers, Cleaver Fulton Rankin.
3. Phoenix Law can give instructions and advice. The Inquiry team can use these to start a **witness statement**. This can be finished with help from the witness and someone from Phoenix Law.



MAHI Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry



If **documents** are needed to finish a witness statement we will ask for them.



Documents are information that has been written down or typed.

Once the **witness statement** is signed we will organise a date to give evidence.



Phoenix Law clients will have to be heard later. This was because November hearings are full.

Documents



There are lots of documents about patients from Muckamore Abbey Hospital. We will look at evidence then ask for the documents we need to do our job.

Core Participant news reports



On Monday news reports said we told 5 people they were no longer **Core Participants**.

This is not true.



Our lawyer wrote to Phoenix Law. They said we were thinking of taking away 5 Core Participants.



These 5 Core Participants experienced Muckamore Abbey Hospital a long time ago. Their experiences happened outside of the years the Inquiry looks at.



We said we were happy to hear why these 5 people should keep being Core Participants.

We gave their lawyers 14 days to answer.



We will hear what their lawyers have to say on Thursday. After this we will make a decision.