

November

24

2021



Update

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

Introduction



The Inquiry was set up. We then had meetings for people with experience of abuse at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

Meetings were face to face and online.



These meetings let people

- meet the Inquiry team
- and ask questions.



We asked people with information for the inquiry to fill in a contact form. This meant we could contact them for **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.



Information that has been written or typed is called a **document**. We are now asking for documents.

We will keep asking for documents to help the inquiry when we need them.



When we look at documents we might find we need more people to give witness statements.

How we will follow Inquiry rules



The Inquiry **Chair** runs the inquiry. He will follow Inquiry Rules 2006 and make sure the inquiry

- Runs in a fair way
- and does not spend more money than needed.



1. We will write to people we want **evidence** from. We will ask them for a witness statement.

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



2. We will write to anyone we want documents or information from.



3. We will write to anyone we need more **evidence** from.



4. If witness statements are asked for then we must say what information we want in them.

Who we will take witness statements from



Information from contact forms and documents will help us decide who to ask for witness statements.



We cannot take witness statements from everyone. This would take too long.



This inquiry looks into **abuse** of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.

We want witness statements from people who say they were abused or saw abuse.

Who will ask for your witness statements



Our Inquiry lawyers will ask for witness statements.



They will ask for more information if they need to.



We welcome people asking to give witness statements. These people should fill in a contact form.

Who will take witness statements



It is important that witness statements are taken in the same way.



It is important that good advice is given when people have their witness statements taken. No important information should be missed out.



If witness statements are not taken properly it takes time and money to put right.



Many people who give witness statements need special care and support. Abuse is a very upsetting thing to talk about.



The Inquiry has a **duty of care**.

Duty of care means we must look after the safety and wellbeing of the people we work with.



It is important that **witness statements** are taken by people with the right skills.



We are using a law firm to take witness statements for the Inquiry. Their team will be trained to take witness statements.

How we will take witness statements



1. Our Inquiry lawyers will write to you to ask for a witness statement.



2. Their team will contact you to find a date and time to take your witness statement.



3. When the witness statement is finished and you have signed it then it will go to the inquiry.



4. The witness statement will be shared with **Core Participants**.

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

Witness statements can be taken

- at the statement team's offices
- over video link
- at your home
- or another place that works.



Covid rules must be followed at all times.

Using registered intermediaries



We can use **registered intermediaries**.

Intermediaries can help make it easier for you to tell your story. They can explain questions or help others understand what you say.



If think you may need support from registered intermediaries they will

- do a needs assessment
- and help to take the **witness statement**.



We will also think about other things that may help people to make their **witness statement**.

For example, making a video recorded interview.



Our aim is to help people tell us what happened.



We might ask for another statement but hope this will not be needed.

Giving spoken evidence to the Inquiry



If you make a witness statement you may be asked to give spoken evidence to the Inquiry.



If you or a family member have suffered abuse, you might not want to speak to the Inquiry.



This is ok, they will use your witness statement instead.



If you make a video statement you will probably not need to speak in front of the inquiry.



The inquiry will do all they can to help you give spoken evidence in a way that you feel comfortable.

Contacting Us



If you have any problems or questions about this update please contact solicitor@mahinquiry.org.uk