

December

12

2023



Update

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

Introduction



We hoped there would be more witnesses called this week but some **witness statements** were not finished and signed in time.

Witness statements say what you say happened and what you saw. What you say is written down and you sign it.



Today is day 72 of hearing **evidence**.
We have now heard from witness 136.

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



We have now finished taking evidence about

- patient experience
- the law and rules around services for those with learning disabilities.



We have now started to hear evidence from hospital staff.



We have decided which hospital staff members we would like to speak to and get statements from.

Hospital staff evidence



We have written to the hospital staff we would like to hear evidence from.

Some hospital staff are happy to give evidence.



Getting hospital staff evidence maybe difficult.

Cleaver Fulton Rankin are the law firm that take witness statements.

We want hospital staff to work well with them.



NAPIER SOLICITORS

Anyone with worries or questions can speak to

- our Inquiry staff or
- Napiers Solicitors, who independently look after staff who do not want to use Trust solicitors.



Hospital staff can talk to our counsellors for support.



Staff can ask to give evidence anonymously so people do not know their name or who they are.

We can say yes or no to this.



The Chair runs the Inquiry.

He has not made hospital staff give witness statements. But the law says he can.



Staff who are asked to make a witness statement should do so.

We hope staff will volunteer their statements.

Asking for patient information



In March we asked the Trust for patient information because of evidence we heard.



The Trust got this information ready for us.

A **Judicial Review** meant we did not get this information straight away.

This slowed down the Inquiry.

Judicial reviews gets a judge to see if the way a decision or action was made is allowed by the law.



Last month it was decided that the Trust could give us this patient information.



We are now telling patients or the people who act for them that we have their information.



New evidence from patients and families means we need to get more patient information from the Trust.

We will ask for this before the Christmas holidays.



When we get this patient information we will tell patients or the people who act for them.

Plans for 2024



We will start hearings again on the 5th February.



In March we hope to finish hospital staff evidence and start hearing evidence about old reports.



In January 2024 we will write to organisations about what information we want them to share.



From April to May we will hear from organisations.

We will look at

- how well rules for doing things worked and
- what could or should have been done better.



This gives June to hear any evidence we have left.



We would like to thank everyone for their hard work this year.