

**CHAIR'S FURTHER UPDATE ON REPORT
ISSUED ON 2 MARCH 2026**

1. In my last update on the timing of the publication of the report, which was provided on 24 September 2025, I set out the task which the Panel had to confront in writing the report.
2. I also reminded everyone that before any individual or organisation is criticised in a Public Inquiry report, the Rules require that they receive a warning letter and be given a reasonable opportunity to respond. I indicated that I hoped to be able to begin sending the warning letters out later in 2025.
3. I also said that the report would not be published before March 2026. I can now give further information about the process.
4. The contents of a warning letter are required to be kept confidential as between the Inquiry and the recipient, but I can indicate that from the beginning of December last year and now, letters of proposed criticisms in the report have been sent out to organisations and individuals. The dates for responses have been fixed. Some responses have been received; others will be received later in March 2026. All the responses will require careful consideration.
5. Another issue that needs to be addressed relates to restricted material. Where the Panel wishes to include in the report any material that has been subject to a Restriction Order, I will have to consider variation of previous Orders and that will require notification of those who applied for the Orders in question.
6. The report also has to be carefully considered with regard to my responsibilities under the Memorandum of Understanding with PSNI and the Public Prosecution

Service bearing in mind that there are ongoing police investigations and criminal proceedings.

7. It will be appreciated that work remains to be completed, but the Inquiry is working to ensure that the report will be published in June of this year. I will provide a specific date closer to the time of publication.

Tom Kark KC
Chair MAHI