

The Urology Services Inquiry

Media Protocol

All media representatives who are covering the Inquiry, and all editors responsible for such coverage, are requested to ensure that they read this protocol and follow the guidance that it contains.

It should be noted that the Inquiry has published a Restriction Order with regard to witnesses who have been granted anonymity. Restriction Orders are also in place with regard to:

- (i) the redaction of investigative information;
- (ii) publication of Inquiry documents including witness statements;
- (iii) attendance at private hearings; and
- (iv) publication of unredacted material displayed during hearings.

Copies of these Orders, which are legally binding, are appended to this Protocol. None of these Orders should in any way impede the media in covering the Inquiry properly and responsibly.

Filming, photography and audio recording outside Bradford Court

Except where it would contravene the relevant Restriction Order, filming, photography and audio recording is permitted outside the Inquiry premises. However, we would ask the media to abide by the following guidelines:

- In general, the media should act with respect to all witnesses, any family or friends who may accompany them, and all others taking part in or attending Inquiry hearings.
- We would ask especially that witnesses, their families, or friends are not approached as they leave or enter the building.
- Patients and families have been granted full anonymity under the terms of Restriction Order No. 1 of 2021 which forbids the disclosure of their identity, inadvertent or otherwise, unless they have given written permission for their identity to be disclosed.

Filming, photography and audio recording inside Bradford Court

No filming, photography or audio recording is permitted inside Bradford Court. This applies not only to the Inquiry Chamber, but to all rooms and public areas within the building. The only exceptions are before the official opening of the Inquiry on 8 November 2022 when there will be a facility for filming and photography by accredited media in the Inquiry Chamber, (requests via Shane Finnegan shane@aikenpr.com / 07764534565).

Media may, however, take recordings of the official streaming throughout the duration of the public hearings.

There is also an overflow room which will generally be available for media within Bradford Court with a screen and live feed which they can access, if required.

Media interviews

The Inquiry has no wish to prevent the media from interviewing any witness or other attendee at the Inquiry's hearings who expressly wishes to be interviewed.

However, it is important that no undue pressure is put on any witnesses or other attendees to carry out media interviews.

Requests for interviews with witnesses appearing for core participants should be made through their legal representatives. If a patient or family member, covered by Restriction Order No. 1 of 2021, wishes to give an interview, written confirmation should be obtained and signed by the interviewee.

No witness should be approached while on Inquiry premises.

Live streaming

All public hearings of the Inquiry will be live streamed on the Inquiry's website. Private hearings with patients and family members have taken place in June and September 2022 and any future hearings involving those witnesses will also be held in private.

Transcripts

Redacted transcripts of private hearings with patients and families are published on the Inquiry website. Transcripts of evidence, and documents referred to within evidence will also be placed on the website along with the response statements of the witnesses.

Schedule of witnesses

The schedule for witnesses will be published on the Inquiry's website and updated weekly.

Restriction Orders

All Restrictions Orders are available [here](#).