
Update – 11 October 2021

Maxwellisation and timeline for publication

The work of the Inquiry has continued since the last Progress Update and the Chair's focus has been on drafting the report, a process that has been ongoing since late May. The Inquiry continues to receive relevant material from key stakeholders and there are a few focused specific requests for disclosure outstanding. The Inquiry has continued to see important witnesses - including 6 more survivors. The Police and Social Care experts have delivered reports and continue to work on further instructions.

Where criticisms have been made of individuals or organisations, relevant proposed sections of the Report will be sent to those key stakeholders for comment before Christmas. This process, known as Maxwellisation, is a key part of the Inquiry system and is likely to take until the end of 2021.

The Chair hopes that the final Report will be published in the early spring of next year.

Disclosure

To date, the Inquiry has received approximately 198,784 documents / 1,284,130 pages in total, which are potentially relevant to its Terms of Reference, broken down as follows:

- The documentation received from the Council to date amounts to approximately 187,042 documents / 1,164,195 pages of material;
- The documentation received from West Mercia Police to date amounts to approximately 9,738 documents / 94,821 pages of material;
- The documentation received from Shropshire to date amounts to approximately 21 documents / 212 pages of material;
- The documentation received from NHS providers, CCG and NHSE to date amounts to approximately 1,296 documents / 15,992 pages of material;
- The documentation received from other stakeholders, including relevant West Midlands Police, Schools, CPS and the PCC amounts to approximately 687 documents / 8,910 pages.

Witnesses

The Inquiry has had contact with, or attempted to contact, 226 potential witnesses and to date has met with and taken the evidence of 164 of those witnesses. A further 3 interviews have been arranged for the coming weeks.

Of those 167 witnesses:

- 61 are Council, or former Council, witnesses;
- 38 are police, or former police witnesses;
- 32 are from other organisations / stakeholder bodies;
- 36 are survivors or victims, or family, friends and supporters of survivors or victims.

Although the Inquiry is now concluding its evidence gathering phase, if anyone has evidence that is relevant to the Inquiry's work, we would encourage them to come forward as soon as possible.