

# Omagh Bombing Inquiry: 2024-25 Financial Report

May 2025

## 1. Overview

- 1.1 This document sets out the expenditure of the Omagh Bombing Inquiry from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025. This report marks the end of the Inquiry’s first full financial year.

	Total Spend FY 24/25
<b>Salaries and related expenses</b>	
Chairman	£257,037.60
Secretariat team	£516,796.27
<b>Legal costs</b>	
Counsel fees	£ 731,145.28
Solicitor fees	£1,820,888.69
Legal Representation at Public Expense fees	£ 1,016,326.83
<b>Expert evidence</b>	£59,349.50
<b>Emotional support</b>	£11,060.00
<b>Communications and media services</b>	£227,929.19
<b>Operations</b>	
Office accommodation and related expenses	£30,980.48
Hearing accommodation and related expenses <sup>1</sup>	£438,026.16
IT <sup>2</sup>	£136,920.14
<b>Administration and other expenses</b>	£124,506.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 5,370,966.43</b>

## 2. Notes on financial figures

- 2.1 The Inquiry team has worked to ensure the figures presented are accurate as of 31 March 2025 to give an overview of the Inquiry’s expenditure. However, these figures have not been compiled by accountants and are not intended to be equivalent to company accounts. The audited final accounts will form part of the Northern Ireland Office’s end of year accounts, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.
- 2.2 The Inquiry will be publishing its financial reports quarterly.
- 2.3 Background information relating to the expenditure categories can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this report. Further information about the work of the Inquiry can be found on our [website](#). If you have any queries about this document, please contact [enquiries@omagh.independent-inquiry.uk](mailto:enquiries@omagh.independent-inquiry.uk).

### 3. Background information

#### 3.1 **Chairman**

The Chairman of the Omagh Bombing Inquiry, The Rt Hon Lord Turnbull, was appointed to the role by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 5 March 2024. Expenses entail accommodation, travel and subsistence for hearings and meetings in London, Omagh and Belfast.

#### 3.2 **Inquiry Secretariat**

The Inquiry Secretariat team is led by the Secretary to the Inquiry, Sam Hartley. The team are responsible for supporting the Chairman to deliver hearings and running the operational delivery functions, including contracts, estates, and evidence management.

#### 3.3 **Counsel fees**

The Chairman is supported by a team of counsel (barristers) and solicitors. As of 31 March 2025, the Inquiry has appointed six counsel, which includes two King's Counsel and four Junior Counsel. Not all of these have worked concurrently or full-time. The counsel team is:

- Paul Greaney KC (Counsel to the Inquiry)
- Nicholas de la Poer KC
- Edward Pleeth
- John Rafferty BL
- Aaron Moss
- Sophie Briggs BL

#### 3.4 **Solicitor fees**

The Inquiry solicitors, including the Solicitor to the Inquiry, have been contracted from Burges Salmon LLP to provide legal services, and include sub-contracted solicitors from Fieldfisher LLP. DWF (Northern Ireland) LLP provided legal assistance in Northern Ireland during a Judicial Review process.

#### 3.5 **Legal Representation at Public Expense fees**

The Inquiry may, at the Chair's discretion, fund legal representation at the public expense in line with Section 40 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

Applicants for costs are controlled under the framework set out in the Inquiries Act 2005 and the Inquiry Rules 2006. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has issued a determination which sets out the rates that may be paid under Section 40 of the Act. The Omagh Bombing Inquiry has published a [Costs Protocol](#), which is relevant to applications for the consideration of awards under Section 40.

### **3.6 Expert evidence**

The Inquiry has instructed a number of experts to provide evidence to the Inquiry across various disciplines. As of 31 March 2025 the Inquiry has instructed six expert witnesses to prepare reports for the Chairman.

### **3.7 Emotional support**

The Inquiry is working with WAVE Trauma Centre in Northern Ireland to provide emotional support services to everyone engaging with the Inquiry and members of staff. WAVE also provides trauma-informed training and guidance to the Inquiry team.

### **3.8 Communication and media services**

Crest Advisory has been commissioned to provide communication support to the Inquiry. This includes responding to press queries, supervision of journalists attending hearings, digital support for the Inquiry's website and providing design and brand services to the Inquiry.

### **3.9 Office accommodation and related expenses**

These costs include rent, utilities, maintenance and any associated service charges necessary for the operation of the Inquiry in London and Belfast.

### **3.10 Hearing accommodation and related expenses**

Hearing costs relate to expenses incurred in the delivery of the Inquiry's hearings including venue hire, AV provision and translation costs.

### **3.11 IT**

This includes costs related to the evidence management system and IT provision for the Inquiry team including relevant software.

### **3.12 Administration and other costs**

These costs include but are not limited to staff training and travel and subsistence.