

Omagh Bombing Inquiry Financial Report

1. Overview

This document sets out the expenditure of the Omagh Bombing Inquiry from 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026. This report marks the end of the Inquiry’s financial quarter for FY 25/26, inclusive of VAT.

	January - March Spend 25/26
Salaries and related expenses	
Chairman	£65,063.49
Secretariat team	£207,020.57
Legal costs	
Counsel fees	£516,179.16
Solicitor fees	£824,574.56
Legal Representation at Public Expense fees	£804,989.17
Expert evidence	£48,985.48
Emotional Support*	£0.00
Communications and media services	£0.00
Operations	
Office accommodation and related expenses	£58,127.72
Hearing accommodation and related expenses	£73,379.87
IT	£78,491.15
Administration and other expenses	£18,005.34
Total	£2,694,816.51

*WAVE Trauma Centre has continued to provide comprehensive support services to the Inquiry throughout this period.

2. Notes on financial figures

The Inquiry team has worked to ensure the figures presented are accurate as of 31 March 2026 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 Inquiry will be publishing its financial reports quarterly.

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](https://www.independent-inquiry.uk). If you have any queries about this document, please contact 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, Lynne Fleming. 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). As of 31 March 2026, the Inquiry has appointed twelve counsel, which includes two King's Counsel and five 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
- Clare Brown
- John Rafferty BL
- Aaron Moss
- Sophie Briggs BL

The Inquiry has also appointed five Junior Junior Counsel to support the disclosure process.

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.

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 2026, the Inquiry has instructed eleven expert witnesses and seven forensics sub-experts 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.