

Media operational note

Dear media colleagues

Please see below details for media wishing to attend the Patrick Finucane Inquiry on [Day date in full]

Proceedings will start promptly at XXX each day and will conclude at XXX on XXX).

If you wish to attend the hearing as a member of the media, please contact media@finucane.independent-inquiry.uk to register your attendance, including details of your name and news outlet by XXX.

Members of the media registered to attend should arrive at the venue no later than XXX. The media registration desk will open from XXX.

Members of the media are not allowed to use recording equipment or conduct interviews inside the hearing centre.

Please note that there is no parking available on-site for private vehicles and media satellite trucks will not be granted access to the Bradford Court compound; however, parking is available adjacent to the venue, at the Drumkeen Retail Park and Forestside Shopping Centre. Please note that this is subject to locally enforced restrictions.

Commented [JD1]: Ops team to confirm correct working and arrangements

Security process and prohibited items

Commented [JD2]: Ops team to advise

- Before entering the hearing or media rooms, you will go through a brief security check including a wand check and a bag search. Please let the security team know if you have any concerns about this.
- There are a number of prohibited items, including:

- Weapons of any kind
- Sharp items including blades, scissors and razors

Accessing Bradford Court

- Bradford Court is wheelchair accessible. Please advise if you have mobility / accessibility considerations and require on-site parking as a result.

Media Facilities

- There is a fixed point for media at the main entrance at the ground floor to capture images and conduct broadcasts during the day if required. No filming is permitted inside Bradford Court. **Members of the media are asked to respect the wishes of those providing evidence and observing proceedings and not to approach individuals for an interview inside Bradford Court.**
- A media room is available at Bradford Court. A YouTube feed of the hearing will also be played in the media room (this is subject to a three-minute delay). Further details of the media room will be available upon registration.
- A small seating area is available for registered members of the press inside the hearing room. This will be on a first come first served basis. Further details will be available upon registration.
- A high-quality broadcast feed is available for broadcast outlets, please contact media@finucane.independent-inquiry.uk to request access to this line.
- The hearing will be broadcast on the [\[link to YouTube channel\]](#) on a three-minute delay. The transcript of the day's proceedings will be published on the link to the website.
- Only live feed will be available. Videos of the hearings will not be saved on the Inquiry's YouTube channel.
- The Inquiry will publish updates and information on its social media feed on X [@PatFinucaneInq](#)

Commented [JD3]: to check the position on this?

The Inquiry's hearing room (for those who gain access)

- The hearing room will have space for the Inquiry Chair, Assessors to the Inquiry, Counsel to the Inquiry, Solicitor to the Inquiry, Core Participants and their Legal Representatives and members of the public and press to **hear the opening statements** from all Core Participant teams.
- There will be separate seating areas for use by members of the public and a small number of media.
- Filming, photography and live reporting, including on social media, is not permitted in the hearing room. Those seated in the public gallery are also asked not to use their electronic devices.
- Only water can be consumed in the hearing room. No other food or drink is permissible.

Commented [MN4]: To check if opening statements will be made at prelim - running order not confirmed I believe

Who will be at the hearing?

The hearing will be chaired by the Rt Hon Sir Gary Hickinbottom. Sir Gary will be supported by the two Assessors, Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Francesca Del Mese, and by the Inquiry Legal Team: Senior Counsel to the Inquiry, Matthew Hill KC; and Solicitor to the Inquiry, Stephen Brown. The Chair will also be supported by a secretariat, led by the Secretary to the Inquiry, Alison Bennett. Background and biographical information on the Chair, Assessors and wider team is available on the [\[link to website\]](#)

Please note that the Chair, Assessors and wider team will not be providing media interviews at this time.

The Inquiry hearing is open to the public and we expect a number of attendees.

The Inquiry Core Participants (who have an enhanced legal status) will be represented at the hearing by their Recognised Legal Representatives. The full list of Recognised Legal Representatives is available on the inquiry [\[link to website\]](#).

Under embargo until XXX

Timetable

The Inquiry's impact hearings are scheduled to take place for XXX weeks from XXX and are expected to conclude by XXX.

The timetable will be published on a weekly basis and circulated to media colleagues at the end of each week.

Please note that all timings are approximate and may, along with the order of witnesses, be subject to change. Breaks will be taken throughout each day.

Date	Session	Details
XXX	Morning	XXX
	Afternoon	XXX

Restrictions on viewing the hearings

- The Chair to the Inquiry has made a restriction order subject to section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 which remains in force throughout the hearings and thereafter. The restriction order delays the YouTube broadcast of the hearing. You can read the full restriction order on the [\[link to inquiry YouTube channel\]](#). Restrictions include:
 - The YouTube broadcast of the hearings shall be subject to a XXX-minute delay.
 - Any information that is redacted from the time-delayed feed and/or the transcript of proceedings must not be repeated, disclosed or duplicated to any third party.
 - No contemporaneous reporting, including Tweeting and other forms of live blogging, shall be permitted from the hearing room.

Other ways to follow the Inquiry

- The hearing will be livestreamed (subject to a short delay) on the [Patrick Finucane Inquiry YouTube channel](#).
- Transcripts of the proceedings will be published on the [Patrick Finucane Inquiry website](#).
- The Inquiry will publish updates and information on its social media feed on X: [\[link to inquiry X channel\]](#).

Commented [JD5]: we will need to decide if we are publishing in advance. This might be better handled separately from the media note

Queries about the hearings

- If you have any questions about attending the hearings which have not been answered in this guide, please email [\[link to inquiry enquiries email address\]](#).

For information - internal

Inquiries Act 2025 –

Public access to inquiry proceedings and information

(1) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a notice or order under section 19, the chairman must take such steps as he considers reasonable to secure that members of the public (including reporters) are able—

(a) to attend the inquiry or to see and hear a simultaneous transmission of proceedings at the inquiry;

(b) to obtain or to view a record of evidence and documents given, produced or provided to the inquiry or inquiry panel.

(2) No recording or broadcast of proceedings at an inquiry may be made except—

(a) at the request of the chairman, or

(b) with the permission of the chairman and in accordance with any terms on which permission is given.

Any such request or permission must be framed so as not to enable a person to see or hear by means of a recording or broadcast anything that he is prohibited by a notice under section 19 from seeing or hearing.

Requests for copies of Inquiry footage can be to the Inquiry Comms team who will arrange for the AV provider to send it to the appropriate media outlet.