

Remote hearings

The Inquiry is temporarily running hearings remotely due to the ongoing health crisis. Arrangements have been made to enable witnesses to give their evidence remotely using a secure Zoom-based platform. Witnesses' RLRs, interpreters and wellbeing team will continue to provide support remotely.

Steps have been taken to ensure the witnesses give their evidence without the risk of intervention by others. Witnesses will be asked to confirm that they are alone in the room from which they're giving evidence, and that they have no documents or materials with them. Witnesses will be using specialist secure equipment, and will also be asked to confirm that mobile phones and any other electronic devices which could receive messages are not in the room with them.

Remote hearings will be live-streamed on the <u>Inquiry's YouTube channel</u> and <u>website</u> and will continue to follow the same schedule, beginning each day at the usual time of 10:00 and running until approximately 16:30. Every effort has been made to ensure that remote hearings run smoothly. If technical issues arise at any point during the course of remote hearings, these will be resolved by the Inquiry's technical team as quickly as possible.

Remote hearings are a temporary measure to be used only for as long as is absolutely necessary. The Inquiry will continue to monitor government advice and guidance on Covid-19, and will return to limited attendance hearings when it is safe to do so.