

Newsletter

ISSUE 2 – SPRING 2021



Update from Lord Brodie

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry's work continues to intensify as we progress towards the first hearings in September. Our priority is to hear from all families and patients who have been affected at either hospital, whether physically, emotionally or otherwise.

The Witness Engagement and Support team and Affected Persons Manager, who joined the team in January, have already begun talking to some of the affected patients and their families and listening to what they have to say.

These conversations will provide critical information to allow the Inquiry to understand what has happened and its consequences. This will be explored further at the September hearings but the information from patients and families will also inform future hearings and open up additional lines of investigation for the Inquiry.

While our focus at present is on the September hearings, we are also looking beyond that. It is my intention to proceed next with hearings specifically focused on the circumstances associated with the delayed opening of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and the Department of Neurosciences (RHCYP/DCN) in Edinburgh.

We want to ensure that we take into account all experiences from families who have been affected by the delayed opening of the Edinburgh hospital, positive or otherwise. Patient and family stories will shed light on the issues that arose and allow us to make judgements on improvements to prevent these issues arising again in the future.

In addition to the ongoing conversations with families, the Inquiry's research and evidence gathering is running in parallel. All this activity will help give us a rounded view of what has occurred at both hospitals and allow us to develop independent lines of investigation.

Lord Brodie
Chair

Contact us:

E: public@hospitalsinquiry.scot

T: 0808 196 5000 (lines are open from 0830 to 1700)

P: Scottish Hospitals Inquiry, PO Box 27126, Glasgow G2 9NB

A Brief Timeline of The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry



Listening to you

The Witness Engagement and Support Team has been speaking with affected patients and families about their experiences at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus (QEUH) in Glasgow and some family groups at the RHCYP/DCN.

These conversations will form the basis of the Inquiry's investigations ahead of the September hearings and therefore we want to ensure we hear from everyone with relevant information.

We understand that the experience of contacting the Inquiry can be a daunting prospect, or that you may have doubts about the significance of the information you hold. The Witness Engagement and Support Team is available to answer questions or concerns around the process, to listen and guide you in a respectful and sympathetic manner.

We are interested in hearing about your experience of in-patient and out-patient care and whether you feel you were kept properly informed about your child or relative's condition. Information shared can be both positive and negative and relate to the care you or a relative received.

The team can be contacted on public@hospitalsinquiry.scot or 0808 196 5000 between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

June procedural hearing

The first formal hearing of the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry will be held on 22 June 2021. This will be an opportunity for Lord Brodie to confirm arrangements and procedures for the programme of formal hearings which are due to begin in September.

The procedural hearing will be held remotely in line with COVID-19 restrictions. Details on how to join and view the hearing will be shared on our website ahead of the date.

Setting up the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry was announced in September 2019. A sponsor team was established within the Scottish Government to appoint the Chair, Lord Brodie, and the Secretary to the Inquiry and to develop its Remit and Terms of Reference. Following consultation, these were published on 15 June 2020.

An inquiry under the [Inquiries Act 2005](#) and the [Inquiry Rules \(Scotland\) 2007](#) is independent. The Inquiry formally began its work on 3 August 2020; you can read about how it was set up [here](#).

Site visits

The Inquiry has carried out visits to the now closed Royal Hospital for Sick Children 'Sick Kids' at Sciennes and the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh in April. To find out more about these visits see our [news page](#).

Protocols and procedures

The Inquiry published a number of protocols in March and these can be found on our website:

- Applications for legal representation to be funded by the Inquiry. Applications for funding need to be made before any legal work is carried out. Please refer to Section 3 of the protocol for more information about this.
- Protocol on taking witness statements from individuals. This includes information about how the Inquiry will take a witness statement, including what will happen before and after these are taken, the arrangements of publishing witness statements and how to contact the Inquiry's Witness Support Team.
- Protocol for receipt and handling of information, which explains how the Inquiry gathers information and how it should be supplied.
- Data protection policy, which explains the Inquiry's approach, procedures and duties regarding the appropriate handling of data of all natural persons in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

All can be found here:

<https://www.hospitalsinquiry.scot/procedures>

The Inquiry has also updated its [Privacy Notice](#).

Giving your views

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry has commissioned a survey to find out how the delayed opening of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and the Department of Clinical Neurosciences (RHCYP/DCN) in Edinburgh impacted on the care and wellbeing of patients and their families.

The [survey](#) is now open and will run till 14 May 2021. It is being run by Gatehouse ICS and is anonymous. No personal information will be shared with the Inquiry without consent.

To take part, please find the link [here](#).

Key dates for 2021

22 June – procedural hearing

20 September – hearings for affected patients and families, scheduled to take place over a three-week period.

Follow us

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry has recently launched a new [Facebook page](#), where you will find latest information about our work.

You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

 @ScotHospInquiry

 Scottish Hospitals Facebook

 Scottish Hospitals Inquiry

Find out more

For more information about what the Inquiry does, who we are, hearing dates, recent news, our protocols and more, please check the website: www.hospitalsinquiry.scot

