



Guidance from the Chair of the Inquiry - Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and Department of Clinical Neurosciences (RHCYP/DCN)

1. It is envisaged that the first set of hearings in relation to the RHCYP/DCN will commence in May 2022. In order to focus the efforts of the Inquiry team and to assist Core Participants ("CP"), I wish to issue the following guidance which sets out my provisional view on the scope of the Inquiry in relation to Term of Reference 1 for the RHCYP/DCN.
2. The remit of the Inquiry is to consider the planning, design, construction, commissioning and, where appropriate, maintenance of both the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus (QEUH), Glasgow and the RHCYP/DCN. The Inquiry will determine a range of matters. These include how issues relating to adequacy of ventilation, water contamination and other matters adversely impacting on patient safety and care occurred; if these issues could have been prevented; the impacts of these issues on patients and their families; and whether the buildings provide a suitable environment for the delivery of safe, effective person-centered care. These matters are set out in greater detail in the Terms of Reference ("TOR").
3. I consider that the focus of the Inquiry, insofar as relating to TOR 1 for the RHCYP/DCN, should be on the issue of ventilation.

4. The term “ventilation” should be interpreted broadly. It will require a detailed investigation and analysis of air change rates in certain areas of the hospital, including isolation and critical care areas and operating theatres, and compliance with SHTM 03-01. However, associated issues such as air pressure and temperature will also require to be considered by the Inquiry.
5. At this stage, it is not clear that water contamination or other events adversely impacting on patient safety and care arise in relation to the RHCYP/DCN. However, these matters will be kept under review as the investigations being undertaken by the Inquiry progress. I will update the Inquiry team and CPs if my views on the scope of the Inquiry, in relation to TOR 1, change.
6. A range of other issues will require to be considered at the hearings to provide context for the Inquiry. A timeline will require to be produced which sets out the key stages of the project. This will require an understanding of issues other than ventilation and, in particular, causes of delays to the project. However, detailed investigation and analysis of such issues is not required at this stage given the provisional view I have reached on the scope of the Inquiry in relation to TOR 1.
7. The Inquiry team is currently giving active consideration as to how matters are focused further. This may involve a requirement for position papers to be submitted in relation to relevant issues concerning ventilation by CPs in advance of the hearings. One such requirement, relating to the detailed identification of precisely what the “issues” were with the ventilation system, will follow shortly. I will update CPs on further issues in relation to which position papers will be required in due course.

8. I may require to revisit the view expressed above if, during the course of the Inquiry's investigations, other issues arise which clearly fall within TOR 1. If such a view is taken, I will update CPs as soon as is practicable.

Lord Brodie
Chair, Scottish Hospitals Inquiry
14 July 2021