Direction 13 – in respect of the Final Report and related matters

In terms of section 17 of the Inquiries Act 2005 ("the Act"), Lord Brodie ("the Chair") of the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry ("the Inquiry") directs that:

1. The Inquiry has now reached the stage at which no further evidence will be received. Bundle 52, Volume 15, will shortly be published, comprising Core Participants' responses to the evidence of Dr Bradnam, together with five additional documents provided by the Scottish Government and ARHAI concerning Cryptococcus infections which came to the attention of the Inquiry in 2024. These documents are relevant to the evidence regarding these infections heard and received by the Inquiry during the Glasgow 4 Hearings and provide an important update on this issue. Beyond this, no further evidence will be accepted.

2. A question has arisen recently regarding the extent to which the operation of the NHSGGC Safety and Public Confidence Oversight Group (SPCG) falls within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. The Chair has taken the view that while the formation of the SPCG, its scope and the reasons for its establishment are directly relevant to the issues to be addressed in the Final Report the way that the SPCG is now operating, its procedures and the conduct of its members cannot form part of the Inquiry if a conclusion is to be reached in a reasonable time.

3. Similarly, while the current safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital is a matter which falls within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, no further evidence regarding this issue will now be received in order that the Inquiry can reach a conclusion on its terms of reference in a reasonable time.

4. Core Participants are reminded that the procedure relating to warning letters is set out in Direction 7. In relation to timescales for the Maxwellisation process, warning letters will not be issued before Christmas and are instead expected to be issued in the early part of the New Year. The timetable for publication of the Final Report itself will be communicated once it has been finalised.

5. Core Participants will note that the Inquiry no longer anticipates publishing its report by the end of the year. Although this represents a delay from the original timetable, it is necessary to ensure the thoroughness, accuracy and overall integrity of the Final Report.

Lord Brodie
Chair of the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry
05 November 2026