

The Independent Jersey Care Inquiry (the “Inquiry”)

Inquiry Protocol: Media and Conduct in the Inquiry’s Hearing Room

Scope

1. As set out in the General Procedures Protocol, the Inquiry is a public inquiry and the intention is that it will be as open and transparent as possible. Proceedings before the Inquiry will be open to the public, and this includes access by the media. Space in the hearing room is very limited.
2. This protocol sets out the Inquiry’s expectations of those members of the media who take an interest in the Inquiry’s work, and the access that the media can expect from the Inquiry.

Accreditation and passes

3. All local and national members of the media who wish to attend the Inquiry’s hearings will need to apply to the Inquiry’s Media Liaison Officer for accreditation. Applicants not eligible for accreditation will have the same right of access to the hearings as members of the public. Accreditation will:
 - 3.1 Allow access to a designated media office within the Inquiry’s premises. The media office will have working space and power points. It will have a real-time feed from the hearing room. There will be no guarantee of availability of space and/resources in the media office. Resources will be available on a first come, first served basis; and
 - 3.2 Allow access to the public area in the hearing room. There will be a limited number of seats available for the media in the public seating area. Where these seats are not taken up to 15 minutes before the hearings begin each day, media seats will be released to the public.

Applications for accreditation

4. All applications for accreditation should be sent electronically to the Media Liaison Officer at the following email address: press@jerseycareinquiry.org, clearly marked “Inquiry Accreditation”.
5. Applications should clearly indicate:
 - 5.1 The name of the media organisation making the application;

- 5.2 The name and details of a permanent point of contact at that organisation (including email, telephone numbers and address details);
 - 5.3 If different from the above, the name and contact details of the News Editor (or equivalent); and
 - 5.4 The name of the members of the media who will be attending the Inquiry premises, with a passport-sized photo to allow for identification.
6. Applications will be considered and decided at the discretion of the Inquiry. If the number of requests for passes exceeds the capacity available in the media office, local media will be prioritised.
 7. Accredited members of the media will be issued with name badges, and these should be collected from the Inquiry's Media Liaison Officer at 11 Seaton Place, St Helier, Jersey. If a name badge is lost or stolen, please report this immediately to the Inquiry's Media Liaison Officer.
 8. When attending the Inquiry, members of the media are also asked to sign in bearing photographic proof of identity.

General arrangements

9. The Inquiry has put in place the following facilities for members of the media within the hearing room at Seaton Place:
 - 9.1 Limited dedicated seating area for media in the public section of the hearing room;
 - 9.2 Dedicated media office with power points, working space and live feed from the hearing room; and
 - 9.3 Wifi facilities in the media office and reception area.
10. A copy of the daily transcripts, relevant witness statements and documents will be published on the Inquiry's website as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of any evidence given to the Inquiry in its public proceedings, and therefore will be available to everyone.
11. The Inquiry will carry out searches of bags for security reasons entirely at its own discretion.

Restrictions

12. The following restrictions will apply to all members of the media, members of the public and legal representatives (including Accredited Lawyers), attending the Inquiry's hearings:

- 12.1 Filming, photography, recording and social media updates are not permitted in the hearing room, including the area of public seating;
 - 12.2 Mobile phones must be switched off whilst in the hearing room;
 - 12.3 All personal entertainment devices, including MP3 players, tablets and iPods, may not be used in the hearing room when the Inquiry is in session;
 - 12.4 The use of laptops in the public area of the hearing room is prohibited at all times whilst the Inquiry is in session;
 - 12.5 Eating and drinking in the hearing room is prohibited;
 - 12.6 The privacy of members of the public attending the hearings must be respected. In particular, individuals are not to be approached for interviews or quotes whilst in any area of Seaton Place or in any other place where the Inquiry conducts its hearings. Further, once witnesses have been sworn in, they must not be spoken to or asked about any matter in connection with their evidence until the conclusion of their evidence;
 - 12.7 Members of the Inquiry should not be approached to seek interviews or quotes during the hearings. If members of the media have any queries, these should be directed to the Inquiry's Media Liaison Officer;
 - 12.8 The rooms allocated to Interested Parties are for their sole use and not for the purpose of media interviews;
 - 12.9 Any media interviews should be conducted outside the main building. However, members of the media are requested to be considerate of the fact that the Inquiry will be based in a multi-use building. Interviews are therefore not permitted in the ground floor foyer or immediately outside the foyer doors; and
 - 12.10 The strict terms of any Protective Rulings made by the Inquiry (see Inquiry Protocol: Protective Measures) in relation to the publication of evidence must be respected by all parties. This includes any orders allowing evidence to be given anonymously or to be given in private.
13. The Inquiry reserves the right to require individuals who fail to comply with these conditions to leave the building. Additionally, the Inquiry may refer the matter to the appropriate authorities.

Removal of accreditation

14. In the event of any serious behavioural concerns or breaches of the reporting restrictions, the States Liaison Officer, in conjunction with any direction from the Inquiry, will take appropriate and proportionate action. Such measures may include removal of accreditation and/or exclusion from the building.

Other information

15. The Inquiry's Media Liaison Officer is happy to help with any queries and can be contacted at press@jerseycareinquiry.org. Further information about the Inquiry is also available on the website at www.jerseycareinquiry.org.