

FAQ Phase 3d Panel Discussions

Who will be invited to make submissions to this phase of the Inquiry?

The Panel has contacted a range of agencies and individuals with expertise in or responsibility for child welfare, in Jersey and beyond, from whom they wish to receive written submissions. The Panel will also consider requests to make written submissions from other agencies and individuals with relevant experience.

How will Phase 3d submissions differ from witness statements received in other phases of the Inquiry?

Phase 3d submissions will address one or more of the following areas:

- *Current and anticipated future trends in their areas of work / expertise that should influence policy and practice in Jersey*
- *Challenges which will face services for children in Jersey in the coming decade*
- *Aspirations for services for children in Jersey and how they can be met*

Submissions will be made directly to the Panel by the individuals / agencies rather than through legal representatives/ legal teams and will reflect the professional views of contributors. Submissions will not include reference to identifiable cases or individuals and therefore will not usually be subject to the same redaction/ document management protocols as material submitted in Phases 1 and 2. Submissions accepted by the Panel will be made available on the Inquiry website.

Who will be invited to attend the discussions?

The Panel will invite a sample of contributors to attend discussions with them on the future of services for children in Jersey. The Panel may also invite some individuals who have responded to the public consultation and experts to assist them in this phase of the Inquiry.

Where and when will they take place?

The Phase 3d discussions will take place in the Inquiry offices at 11-15 Seaton Place, St Helier during February and March at times to be announced on the website.

Will these sessions be held in public?

Yes.

Will evidence be given under oath?

No. This phase of the inquiry is not considering individual cases, past policies or the conduct and performance of individuals.

How will these sessions differ in format from the current phase of hearings?

The Panel and participants will sit together round a table in one of the Inquiry offices and discuss the future of care for children in Jersey. Contributors from more than one agency with common interests may be invited to attend the same session. Participants will be invited to make a short presentation based on their written submission followed by questions from and discussion with the Panel. Each session will last 1-1.5 hours.

Will members of the Inquiry counsel team / legal team participate in the discussions?

No.

Will legal representatives of interested parties be present?

Legal representatives may attend.

Can Interested Parties ask questions of participants?

Interested Parties will be provided with copies of written submissions in advance of discussions. Interested Parties may submit to the Panel questions based on participants' submissions 48 hours in advance of a session. These questions may be put to participants at the discretion of the Chair.

Can participants be accompanied?

The Panel's wish is to hear first-hand the views and aspirations of people most closely involved with ensuring the welfare of children in order to assist them in making recommendations for the future. Any experienced professional will be able to participate without personal support. Participants may be accompanied by a colleague who is contributing to their presentation.

Any member of the public invited to contribute to a session may be accompanied by a supporter who may sit alongside them if they wish. The Inquiry will also aim to accommodate the special needs of any contributor.

Will there be a record of the discussions?

A digital recording will be made of each session and a note will be taken by a member of the Inquiry team. These will be published on the Inquiry website in due course.

How will the outputs of the sessions be used?

Information from any of the discussions or submissions may be used in closing submissions made to the Inquiry. The Panel will consider and weigh the material from Phase 3 consultations and discussions in reaching conclusions and making recommendations in its report.

Will there be facilities for the media?

Members of the media may attend. As the sessions are not being held in the main hearing room there will be no live relay to the media room.

Please note that there will be limited public seating available for these sessions. Priority will be given in the order below to:

- Interested Parties / IP representatives
- Members of the Public
- Members of the Media

IP rooms will not be available on days these sessions are taking place.