

30th November 2020

Stakeholder Update

News and information from the Manchester Arena Inquiry for the week ahead

This week, The Manchester Arena Inquiry will sit from Monday 30th November to Thursday 3rd December and will hear the concluding evidence from Chapter 7, related to the Manchester Arena complex and security arrangements. The week will begin with evidence from senior Counter Terrorism officer DAC Lucy D’Orsi, who returns to conclude her evidence concerned with CTSA’s and protective security.

Police Security experts Colonel Richard Latham and Dr David BaMaung, who produced a detailed and lengthy analysis of the security arrangements at the arena and the actions taken on 22 May, will return to conclude their evidence. They opened Chapter 7 in September with an overview of their views about the risk assessments, processes, procedures and training in place at the arena in May 2017. This week, having now heard the submissions of all other witnesses, they will give their opinion in light of that other evidence as to the quality of the security response on the night of the attack itself.

In addition to this evidence, the Inquiry will be hearing evidence from Live Nation (promoters representative) from the Arianna Grande tour 2017 and further evidence from SMG Europe.

Whilst the Inquiry does not ordinarily plan to sit on Fridays, there may be a need to hear evidence this Friday. We will keep people updated.

The week at a glance:

Mon: DAC Lucy D’Orsi, Rik Weightman, John Sharkey

Tue: John Sharkey, Colonel Richard Latham and Dr David BaMaung

Wed: Colonel Richard Latham and Dr David BaMaung

Thur: Colonel Richard Latham and Dr David BaMaung

Fri: TBC

Covid 19:

The Inquiry continues to operate in-person hearings however is operating with limited attendance due to Covid-19 and so it is not currently possible for members of the public to attend in person. A livestream is available on Youtube.

Restricted Hearings:

There are currently no restricted hearings planned for w/c 30th November. All Inquiry hearings will be screened on YouTube

Follow the Inquiry:

The Inquiry sits Mon-Thur from 0930hrs. The YouTube livestream begins 10 mins later as it is operating on a delay.

Twitter: @mcrinquiry

Youtube: Manchester Arena Inquiry

Website: www.manchesteraarenainquiry.org.uk

Timetable Update

The Manchester Arena Inquiry, has now been running for three months and is this week hearing the concluding evidence of Chapter 7.

The next Chapter of evidence, concerned with the planning and preparation for the attack is scheduled to begin on Monday 7th December. Chapter 8 will examine in detail the planning of the attack, including expert evidence, in relation to the construction of the bomb, the financing of the attack. It will also look at evidence in relation to the movements of Salman Abedi, and others, in the lead up to the attack, up to and including 22nd May 2017.

This Chapter is scheduled to last for two weeks. The Inquiry will then break for Christmas on 17th December and will resume with Chapter 9 evidence on 11th January.