

14th December 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 14th December to Wednesday 16th December to hear the conclusion of evidence related to Chapter 8. Chapter 8 relates to the planning and preparation for the attack and will examine matters including the device and its construction and financing. 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 week we will hear evidence from some of the civilian witnesses who gave evidence at the trial of Hashem Abedi. Those expected to appear include Christopher Taylor, the depot manager for Shield Batteries, in connection with the purchase of a specialist industrial battery. Tariq Nadeem, the taxi driver who drove Salman Abedi to Granby Row on the evening of 22 May. Rabie Zreba, the man who was contacted by Salman Abedi on 22 May to arrange a money transfer to Libya. We also expect to hear from Ahmed Taghdi a former associate of Salman Abedi who was involved with the purchase of the Nissan Micra and Khalid Balaam, who knows the Taghdi family.

The Inquiry will conclude hearings on 16th December and resume in the new year.

Reporting Restrictions

The inquiry will this week hear evidence from and related to individuals who are subject to restriction orders made in relation to sec 46 orders imposed at the Criminal trial of Hashem Abeid. This order prevents identification. Trial Witness 2, Relative B, Trial Witness 1 and Relative A will are expected to give evidence in person. Their evidence, currently scheduled for Monday morning and Tuesday morning, will NOT be broadcast on the public livestream. A redacted transcript will be made available afterwards, however this will take longer to produce and is not expected to be available the same day.

The week at a glance

Mon: Relative B, Trial Witness 2, Christopher Taylor, Tariq Nadeem

Tue: Trial Witness 1, Relative A, Rabie Zreba

Wed: Ahmed Taghdi, Khalid Balaam

Follow the Inquiry

The Inquiry sits Monday to Wednesday 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

Support Services

Support for anyone affected by the Manchester Arena Inquiry is available from the Greater Manchester Resilience Hub. Support is available for family members who have been affected, professionals who have been affected and professionals seeking clinical advice about their service users

You can contact the hub via:

Telephone: 03330 095 071

Email: GM_help@nhs.net

Website:

<https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/mcrhub>