

# Stakeholder Update

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

This week the Inquiry will sit from Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th January and hearings will begin at 10:00am. Counsel to the Inquiry Paul Greaney QC will begin this week by opening Chapter 10. This will provide an introduction to key events within the emergency response timeline, building on Counsel to the Inquiry's opening statement, and set out the issues. We will also hear from Greater Manchester Police expert witness T/Insp Michael Russell, from Operation Manteline, who will give evidence introducing key CCTV and audio evidence that will be referred to during this chapter.

## *Ruling on arrangements following Covid-19*

The Inquiry has had to consider issues that arise as a result of the latest developments with the Covid-19 pandemic and the current national lockdown. It has received advice from Public Health England ('PHE') and Manchester City Council's Director of Health and Environmental Health Officer, specific to the work of the Inquiry noting a large number of people would need to travel across the country and stay overnight to attend the Inquiry in person. In response, and following a preliminary hearing on 14th January, the Chairman has made a ruling which outlines the approach for the next month. The Chairman's full ruling is available on the website [here](#).

In summary, during this phase of lockdown the Manchester Arena Inquiry will continue oral evidence hearings with some notable changes: The Inquiry will sit for two and a half days per week, Monday to Wednesday. In-person hearings will be kept to essential attendees only, which is currently Counsel to the Inquiry, Solicitor to the Inquiry, and the witness. Next week, the Chairman will follow proceedings remotely. Families, media and legal representatives are requested to follow proceedings remotely. Spinningfields and the Media Annexe will, for now, be closed. Hearings will be held remotely where possible. All of these arrangements will be kept under review, the spread of the virus is ever changing which impacts the advice. We will have a further hearing on 16th February during which the future course of the Inquiry will be discussed.

**18th January 2021**

### **The week at a glance**

**Mon:** Counsel to the Inquiry, t/Insp Michael Russell GMP  
**Tue:** t/Insp Michael Russell GMP  
**Wed:** t/Insp Michael Russell GMP

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### **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>

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### **Follow the Inquiry**

The Inquiry sits Mon-Wed from 1000hrs. The YouTube livestream begins 10 mins later as it is operating on a delay.

Twitter: @mcrinquiry

Youtube: Manchester Arena Inquiry

Website: [www.manchestera-renainquiry.org.uk](http://www.manchestera-renainquiry.org.uk)