

# Stakeholder Update

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

The Manchester Arena Inquiry will not hold oral evidence hearings week commencing 15th February, a pre-planned break for half-term. However, the Manchester Arena Inquiry will hold a preliminary hearing on Tuesday 16th February, in two parts.

- 11:00 AM: The Inquiry will hear submissions on the Inquiry hearing arrangements in this phase of Covid-19 national lockdown
- 2:00 PM: The Inquiry will hear submissions on the application by Abdalraouf Abdallah to prevent disclosure of two redacted expert reports to Core Participants

Both sessions will be fully remote, no-one will be present at the Magistrates Court. All submissions will take place via video link. Both sessions will be broadcast on The Manchester Arena Inquiry Channel on Youtube. This stream will operate live without delay in the morning session. The afternoon session will operate on a ten minute delay.

### ***Coronavirus Context:***

During this phase of lockdown, the Manchester Arena Inquiry has continued oral evidence hearings with some notable changes. The Inquiry has been sitting for two and half days per week, Monday to Wednesday. In-person hearings have been kept to essential attendees only, currently The Chairman, Counsel to the Inquiry, Solicitor to the Inquiry, and the witness. Families, media and legal representatives have been requested to follow proceedings remotely. Spinningfields and the Media Annexe are, for now, closed. Hearings have been held remotely where possible. In his ruling in January 2021, The Chairman stated that all of these arrangements are being kept under review, as the spread of the virus is ever changing which impacts the advice. The planned hearing on 16th February will consider the future arrangements for Inquiry hearings. The Chairman's full ruling is available on the website [here](#).

**15th February 2021**

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

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February:**

**11:00 AM:** Submissions on the Inquiry hearing arrangements in this phase of Covid-19 national lockdown

**2:00 PM:** Submissions on the application by Abdalraouf Abdallah to prevent disclosure of two redacted expert reports to Core Participants

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### **Support Services:**

A number of organisations are available to provide support to those affected by the attack on 22nd May 2017.

The Greater Manchester Resilience Hub, CRUSE Bereavement Care and The Coroner's Support Services provide support to those affected by the issues raised during this Inquiry.

For more information and details on how to access support services visit the [Manchester Arena Inquiry Support Services tab on the website](#).

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### **Watch inquiry hearings**

Inquiry hearings, including preliminary hearings on Tuesday are broadcast via Youtube. The channel is open access and can be accessed via this [link](#).