

## Stakeholder Update

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

This week, the Manchester Arena Inquiry plans to sit from Monday 6th to Friday 10th September with hearings commencing at 9.30am.

On Monday we will hear evidence from Gerard Blezard, Director of Operations at North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) who will give an overview of NWAS' preparedness to respond to a major incident at the time of the attack and lessons learned. We will also hear evidence from Paul Clements, Chief Superintendent in the Operational Communications Branch (OCB) of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), on how lessons learned from the attack have been implemented, particularly around support for the Force Duty Officer (FDO), Plato Action Cards and multi-agency communications.

Mr Clements' evidence will go part heard overnight to Tuesday, when we will hear from Richard Thomas, Head of Specialist and Counter Terrorism Armed Policing Capabilities for Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (CTPHQ), who will provide an overview of the national guidance responding to a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA). A short restricted session is likely to be held on Tuesday afternoon during Mr Thomas' evidence.

On Wednesday and Thursday we will hear evidence from the Inquiry's independent Fire and Rescue Expert Matthew Hall. On Friday, independent Ambulance Experts Christopher Cooper and Mike Herriot will give evidence.

### **Support services**

A number of organisations are available to provide support to those affected by the attack on 22nd May 2017. These services are available for family members, professionals who have been affected and also professionals seeking clinical advice about their service users.

Full details of how to access each organisation are available via the Manchester Arena Inquiry [website](#) for:

- The Greater Manchester Resilience Hub
- CRUSE
- Coroner's Support Services

w/c 6th September  
2021

### The week at a glance

**Mon:** Gerard Blezard (NWAS), Paul Clements (GMP)

**Tue:** Paul Clements (GMP), Richard Thomas (CTPHQ)

**Wed:** Matthew Hall (Fire and Rescue Expert)

**Thur:** Matthew Hall (Fire and Rescue Expert)

**Fri:** Christopher Cooper & Mike Herriot (Ambulance Experts)

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### Watch the Inquiry

Each day's proceedings are broadcast in full. Anyone wishing to follow proceedings can do so via the Manchester Arena YouTube channel, available via this [link](#). The channel operates on a 10 minute delay. Regular updates are posted throughout the day on Twitter [@mcrinquiry](#).

