

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

What happens next?

When you filled in the application form you indicated that you wished to speak to the Statutory Inquiry as well as to the Acknowledgement Forum.

This is what is likely to happen now:

Meeting with the legal team:

- At some point you will receive a phone call from the witness support officer to whom you have already spoken. She will tell you that you will shortly receive a letter from the Statutory Inquiry inviting you to speak to a member of the Inquiry legal team.
- The letter will set out in detail what will happen when you meet the member of the Inquiry legal team and it will have a summary of the account you have given today to the Acknowledgement Forum attached to it, this is to assist you in preparing for the interview with the legal team.
- The witness support officer will then arrange an appointment for you to speak to one of the Inquiry legal team. You should also have the opportunity to meet with one of the Inquiry Counsel who will be conducting the public hearings.
- When you come to meet with the Inquiry legal team you will be met by the witness support officer who will take you to the interview.
- A member of the Inquiry legal team will then interview you. The interview will be a little more formal than your talk today and will be directed to questions about which the Inquiry hopes to obtain your help. You will be able to ask questions and make sure that all you wish to say to the Inquiry is covered.

- After the interview the member of the Inquiry legal team will finalise a witness statement for you to consider and when it is completed it will form an important part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

Public Hearings:

- At a later stage, it may be that the Inquiry will ask you to speak at the public hearings. If this is the case, and you are willing to come to speak at the hearings, you will be given more details nearer the time. It may be that you will not be asked to speak at the public hearings, if this is the case your witness statement may be read out at the hearing and it will still be considered by the Panel when it comes to write its report.
- The Inquiry will ensure that your name is not published by it, unless you wish for it to be known. It is intended that Counsel will call you by your own name when you are giving evidence, but you should know that the press will not be allowed to publish your name and it will not appear in any document used at the hearing, or in any transcript of what you say to the Inquiry.
- There will not be television cameras inside the room where the hearings take place, although it is possible that the press may attend on some days.
- Save in very exceptional circumstances, you will be asked questions only by Counsel to the Inquiry, and possibly by either the Chairman or one of the two Panel members. You will not be cross-examined.
- After the public hearings finish the Panel will write a report. This may take some time but it is expected the report will be published within 6 months of the Inquiry finishing its public hearings.

Thank you for helping the Inquiry in its work.