

Press release

Hearings to resume for the Brook House Inquiry

The Brook House Inquiry, which was established to investigate the mistreatment of individuals detained at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre, will resume its public hearings on 21 February 2022.

The Inquiry intends to open this phase of hearings with testimony from more formerly detained individuals about their experiences of Brook House. Evidence will then be heard from those that worked at Brook House, including senior managers, healthcare staff and those that worked on the ground; including testimony from some who featured on the BBC Panorama programme “*Under-Cover: Britain’s Immigration Secrets*”.

The Inquiry will also hear evidence from G4S staff, Home Office officials, oversight bodies such as HM Inspectorate of Prisons and the Independent Monitoring Board, as well as corporate witnesses from the Home Office and G4S. The hearings will conclude with evidence from the three experts appointed by the Chair to examine cultural matters, clinical issues, and the use of force. Finally, Serco and PPG, who now operate Brook House, will provide evidence on current practice.

Chaired by Kate Eves, an independent investigator with over 20 years’ experience in the detention field, the Inquiry aims to establish what happened to those detained at Brook House between 1 April and 31 August 2017 and make such recommendations as may seem appropriate.

The Inquiry is grateful to all the witnesses who gave evidence before the Inquiry in its first phase of hearings and acknowledge the courage required to do so in a public forum. This important next phase of hearings will provide those with experience of life at Brook House or knowledge of the operations and practices there, the opportunity to inform the Inquiry about their experiences. It is vital that a range of witnesses will give evidence - sharing their knowledge will be critical in helping build a clear picture of what happened and inform the Inquiry's recommendations. The Chair has appointed three experts to the Inquiry, to examine culture, clinical issues, and the use of force and she looks forward to hearing their insights in this next phase of hearings

The hearings will commence from 10:00 on 21 February at the Inquiry’s hearing centre within the International Dispute Resolution Centre, near St Paul’s Cathedral. Hearings can be attended in person or livestreamed on the [Inquiry’s YouTube channel](#). If you do want to attend in person, please let us know in advance so that the Inquiry can allocate you space, which will be limited. Please also let us know if you would like to access the press facilities (where use of IT and phones is permitted) and we will make arrangements for this.

A transcript will be uploaded to the Inquiry website following each day's hearings. Details of upcoming and previous hearings will be available through the Inquiry's website.

About the Chair, Kate Eves

Kate was appointed as Chair to the Brook House Inquiry in November 2019. She has over 20 years' experience in the detention field, both in the UK and the United States. Kate has worked with the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody and HM Prison Service, where she led on the national strategy for reducing prison violence.

An independent investigator, Kate has directly supervised over 200 investigations into deaths in prison custody. She has served as Secretary to two cross-government committees on violence prevention and has trained corrections staff on issues relating to prison safety. Kate has worked directly with prisoners and detainees in solitary confinement and with the families of those who have died in custody.

About Lead Counsel to the Inquiry, Brian Altman QC

Brian Altman QC was appointed as Lead Counsel to the Brook House Inquiry in April 2021. He has extensive inquiry experience, having been appointed as Lead Counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in January 2017. Brian has had a long and successful career as Leading Counsel in the most serious and high-profile criminal cases. He was called to the Bar in 1981 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008.

About the Experts

Professor Mary Bosworth is the Director of the Centre for Criminology and Fellow of St Cross College at the University of Oxford. She has been asked to examine the staff and management structure, arrangements, and culture at Brook House and to consider whether issues of gender, race and language played any part in any mistreatment of detainees.

Dr James Hard has been appointed to focus on clinical issues. He has been asked to examine the medical records of individual detainees and will also look at clinical provision more widely. He is a GP with substantial experience of clinical practice within the detained environment and has a particular interest in substance misuse.

Mr Jonathan Collier has been appointed to assist in respect of the 'Use of Force' at Brook House. He is an expert in the use of force in custodial settings, with over 25 years' experience as a use of force instructor in prisons and immigration detention environments.