

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY

UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

18 November 2025

BEFORE THE CHAIR:

HER HONOUR DEBORAH TAYLOR

**RESTRICTION ORDER:
DEFAULT CLASS-BASED SPECIAL MEASURES**

PENAL NOTICE

Any breach of this Order, failure to comply with it or threat to do so, can be certified to the High Court or the Court of Session under section 36 of the Act. A Court will deal with any breach, failure to comply, or threat of failure to comply as though it had occurred in proceedings before that Court.

The High Court and the Court of Session have the power to imprison or fine a person for any breach of this Order.

PURSUANT TO the Inquiry’s duties and powers under sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 (**“the Act”**);

AND UPON considering all written submissions, and hearing oral submissions at a Preliminary Hearing at Mary Ward House, London on Friday, 7 November 2025;

AND UPON the Chair handing-down her ruling remotely on Monday, 10 November 2025, providing for livestreaming with a 10-minute delay and general permission to broadcast any livestreamed portions to be the default position, with the remainder of the Inquiry to be conveyed only by private live-link (without delay) to CPs and to accredited Media;

IT IS ORDERED THAT

1. Subject to any further restriction order under s.19 of the Act, the following categories of evidence shall be deemed ‘sensitive evidence’:
 - a. Evidence of the Bereaved Families;
 - b. Evidence of the Survivors;
 - c. Evidence of non-professional witnesses whose contact with VC was in a purely personal capacity, such as his fellow students and neighbours;
 - d. Evidence by any witness concerning the wider context insofar as that evidence requires express consideration of the private medical information and treatment of persons other than VC.
2. By default, in respect of ‘sensitive evidence’:
 - a. livestreaming of the Inquiry shall be suspended; and
 - b. accordingly the general permission to broadcast shall not apply and no still or moving image or audio recording of the sensitive evidence shall be published by any person; but
 - c. the public will still be able to attend in-person the public gallery in the Hearing Room at Mary Ward House; and
 - d. CPs and the Media will still have access to the private live-link.
3. The Chair will grant non-professional witnesses to the Inquiry partial anonymity upon request in that only one of their names (either a forename or a surname) shall be used to address them in the course of their oral evidence. Any documentary evidence made available to the public by the Inquiry shall be redacted to show only the name used to address them in oral evidence. No person may disclose or publish evidence or documents which identify the full name of a partially anonymised witness as being a witness to this Inquiry without their consent.

4. The Inquiry will consider any applications for specific special measures by witnesses, over and above those general special measures as set-out above . Such applications must be supported by evidence from the witness themselves, in the form of a statement from the witness or their legal representative and/or any documentary medical evidence relied upon. Such applications will include any application for:
 - a. Suspension of livestreaming (and thus variation of the permission to broadcast) beyond the sensitive evidence defined above;
 - b. The exclusion of the public from the public gallery in the Hearing Room;
 - c. Suspension of the live-link to the Media and/or other CPs, or making the livelink audio-only (“remote screening”);
 - d. Anonymity for witnesses or other persons;
 - e. Screening of a witness so they cannot physically be seen save by the Chair and Counsel to the Inquiry and the Inquiry legal team and other staff and/or Core Participants who are in the Hearing Room;
 - f. Giving oral evidence remotely by video-link;
 - g. Being accompanied to the witness box by another person during the giving of oral evidence (the person must be identified in the application, including their relationship to the witness, and whether or not they are a lawyer).
5. Applications for specific special measures, and the accompanying evidence (including medical evidence) shall be sent to the Solicitor by no later than 14 January 2026. Such applications will be subject to Rule 12 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, and may need to be disclosed in confidence to lawyers for the CPs and editorial lawyers of accredited media only for the purposes of allowing them to make submissions on whether the specific special measures should be granted. Accordingly, any application which the applicant considers should not be shared with lawyers for CPs or editorial lawyers of the accredited media (whether in whole or merely parts of the evidence) should include such written representations under Rule 12(4)(b) within their application.

6. Any witness who wishes to waive their right to the default class-based special measures imposed by paragraph 1 above should notify the Solicitor to the Inquiry in writing of that fact within 14 days from notification that they will be called as a witness.
7. Similarly, any applications (a) by any person wishing to vary the measures in paragraphs 1 or 2 or 3 above; and/or (b) by broadcasters for specific permission to broadcast any particular elements of sensitive evidence that is not livestreamed must be made to the Solicitor in writing within 3 days of the relevant evidence being heard.

Deborah Taylor

Chair

18 November 2025