

Brook House Inquiry Quarter 2 July-September 2020 Financial Report

Costs

As part of the Inquiry's commitment to transparency, it publishes details of its expenditure. The table below covers total expenditure from 1 July up to 30 September 2020. Costs will be updated on a quarterly basis with an end of year financial report.

Overview

The information in this report sets out the expenditure for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020, totalling £321,405. Costs are recorded on a resource basis and audited by the National Audit Office as part of the sponsoring Department accounts.

DESCRIPTION	COST (£)
Chair	£25,632
Inquiry staffing, including secretariat	£147,078
Inquiry legal costs (solicitor, counsel and legal team)	£118,251 ¹
Core participant and witness costs	£5,923 ²
Running costs, including accommodation and IT	£ 22,267 ³
Consultancy and specialist services	£2,254 ⁴
TOTAL COSTS	£321,405

Notes on costs

These figures cover expenditure where invoices have been paid during the reporting period. Total costs have been offset by accruals carried over from the 2019-20 financial year. In addition, the costs shown do not include all invoices expected for this period - COVID 19 has caused delays in the receipt of a number of invoices. The narrative set out below explains some of the expenses that were delayed in this period and these invoices will be included in future financial reports.

- 1. Inquiry legal costs.** The Inquiry is directly funding its own legal team and all such costs are listed under the third row in the table above. There has been a delay in receiving some invoices for this period. These costs will be reported in future quarterly budget reports.
- 2. Core participant and witness costs.** The Chair has now made a number of Core Participant determinations and designated several firms as recognised legal representatives. Expenditure relating to core participants or witnesses to the Inquiry is made per the cost award protocol. The Home Secretary has also made a determination setting out the conditions under which the Chair should make awards for legal representation. Cost awards for this period are set out in the fourth line of the table above. The Inquiry will continue to publish these costs in its quarterly budget reports as further determinations are made by the Chair.
- 3. Running costs including accommodation and IT.** The Inquiry is invoiced every 16 weeks for accommodation. The first accommodation rental invoice was paid in this period. However, the Inquiry accrued for this charge within the 2019/20 budget which was reported as expenditure in the 2019/20 End of Year financial report. In addition, payment of the July accommodation invoice was delayed and will be included in the Q3 budget report.
All IT costs published for this period are for the Inquiry's document management systems.
- 4. Consultancy and specialist services.** Consultancy and specialist service costs paid during this reporting period were for marketing and media services to support the Chair's Opening Statement in April. In addition, the Inquiry commissioned specialist marketing and media services during this period to support the delivery of the 1st preliminary hearing. Costs for these services will be reported in the Q3 financial statement.

The Brook House Inquiry is an independent statutory inquiry. Being independent means the Inquiry is not part of the Government nor is run by any department.

The Inquiry's costs are met by the Home Office who sponsor the Inquiry. A joint management statement exists to ensure clear roles and responsibilities are in place to facilitate the running of the Inquiry, in accordance with the provisions of the Inquiries Act 2005 and the Inquiry Rules 2006.

The final costs of the Inquiry will be published at the close of the Inquiry once all invoices have been received and settled. The categories in the table may expand during the progress of the Inquiry.

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