

Brook House Inquiry Quarter 4 January - March 2021 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 January up to 31 March 2021. Costs are 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 January to 31 March 2021, totalling £2,245,267. Costs are recorded on a resource basis and audited by the National Audit Office as part of the sponsoring Department accounts.

DESCRIPTION	COST (£)
Chair	£35,807
Inquiry staffing, including secretariat	£142,008
Inquiry legal costs (solicitor, counsel and legal team)	£1,615,393 ¹
Core participant and witness costs	£133,331 ²
Running costs, including accommodation and IT	£256,321 ³
Consultancy and specialist services	£62,407 ⁴
TOTAL COSTS	£2,245,267

Notes on costs

These figures cover expenditure where invoices have been paid during the reporting period. Total costs also include end of year accruals for invoices expected for March 2021 which have not been received by the end of the reporting period - COVID 19 continues to cause delays in the receipting of a number of invoices. The narrative below explains the expenditure for this period and some of the expenses that were delayed.

- 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 have been included as end of year accruals.
- 2. Core participant and witness costs.** The Chair has 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 are gaining momentum and are set out in the fourth line of the table above. The Inquiry will continue to publish these costs in its 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 fourth accommodation rental invoice was paid in this period. The majority of 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 include i) marketing and media services to support the Inquiry's second preliminary hearing in December 2020; ii) live streaming of the second preliminary hearing; iii) interpretation and translation services; iv) witness support services; v) Expert Witnesses; and v) witness tracing.

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.

.....