

Brook House Inquiry Quarter 1 April-June 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 April up to 30 June 2021. 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 April to 30 June 2021, totalling £1,483,121. Costs are recorded on a resource basis and audited by the National Audit Office as part of the sponsoring Department accounts.

DESCRIPTION	COST (£)
Chair	£16,433
Inquiry staffing, including secretariat	£129,205
Inquiry legal costs (solicitor, counsel and legal team)	£1,125,748 ¹
Core participant and witness costs	£24,074 ²
Running costs, including accommodation and IT	£95,582 ³
Consultancy and specialist services	£92,079 ⁴
TOTAL COSTS	£1,483,121

Notes on costs

These figures cover expenditure where invoices have been paid during the reporting period. Total actual expenditure for this period is higher than shown, as costs have been offset by 2020/21-year end accruals. In addition, the costs shown do not include all invoices expected for this period. The narrative detail 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 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 as the Chair has made additional Core Participant determinations during this period and as further determinations are expected to be made by the Chair. Costs are set out in the fourth line of the table above and the Inquiry will continue to publish these costs in its budget reports.

3 Running costs including accommodation and IT. The Inquiry is invoiced every 16 weeks for accommodation. During this reporting period the Inquiry identified that an incorrect accommodation charge had been made against the Inquiry's budget, which is included in these figures. The Inquiry has taken action to rectify this charge and an adjustment will be made in the Q2 financial statement. 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) editing of BBC footage ii) Expert Witness services iii) marketing and media services iv) witness support services; v) witness tracing services.

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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