Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan (IIA)

HQ PM(A) Update

October 2023

The Inquiry has now commenced with formal evidential hearings which involved MOD witnesses from the Inquiry's Core Participants providing their witness statements at The Royal Courts of Justice. These witness statements can be found on the Inquiry website at the following link: https://www.iia.independent-inquiry.uk/documents/evidence/.

All hearings conducted on the week commencing 23 October were live-streamed and can be found on the IIA's YouTube channel, within the 'Live' category at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/@IndInqrelatingtoAfghanistan.

Due to media interest in the Inquiry, you may wish to consider the amount of career detail you post on your social media profile(s), which could be used by journalists to make contact with you. Further information can be found at the following link to assist you in securing your social media accounts: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/social-media-how-to-use-it-safely

We have recently reached out to the individuals in which the Inquiry indicated they are likely to request witness evidence from, either directly or through our legal team before the end of 2023. We will continue with this approach going forward. If you are approached by the Inquiry team please speak to our IIA team at this email address: ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk. This will ensure that the right support is in place and enables us to act as a single point of contact, as well as ensuring that the agreed processes and protocols in place for the Inquiry to interact with Core Participants, is adhered to. If you are contacted by the media, you should inform both us (using the HQ PM(A) IIA group mailbox) and the MOD press office, using the following email address: DDC-PR-News@mod.gov.uk.

If you have any information that you believe is relevant to the Inquiry, you may either contact us via the HQ PM(A) IIA group mailbox or you can make direct contact with the Inquiry team using the contact details at this link: https://www.iia.independent-inquiry.uk/contact-us/. If you have any relevant material to share with the Inquiry and wish to remain anonymous, you can use the IIA SecureDrop system. Further information around this system can be found using the same link as above.

Welfare

Your welfare throughout the proceedings remains of utmost importance to us and we encourage you to reach out to the following individuals and organisations for support, should you need it:

Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB):

Maj Tracey Brooks, tracey.brooks102@mod.gov.uk

RMP Regimental Secretary:

Col Jeremy Green, regsec@rhqrmp.org

The Veterans Gateway:

http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/

Please continue to monitor your personal mailboxes to ensure that you are up to date with all correspondence relating to the IIA. Should you wish to discuss emails from the Inquiry team, please reach out to the HQ PM(A) IIA group mailbox.

Please let us know if you are aware of anyone that is affected by the IIA and if they are not already on our communications distribution list, we will ensure that they are added.

Useful Links

DefNet:
modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/SitePages/Independent-Inquiry-relating-to-Afghanistan.aspx

Defence Connect:
Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan | Defence Connect (mod.uk)

IIA website:
https://www.iia.independent-inquiry.uk/

TORs:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-inquiry-into-alleged-unlawful-activity-by-british-armed-forces-during-deliberate-detention-operations-in-afghanistan/terms-of-reference