Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan (IIA)

HQ PM(A) Update: February 2024

Hearings

The next set of open hearings are scheduled for the 20th and 21st February and will see the Rt. Hon Johnny Mercer MP, Minister for Veterans, and Mark Nicol, Defence Journalist, give evidence. The hearings will then move into mainly MOD witnesses who may have raised Complaints and Concerns. As per the previous open hearings, they will be live-streamed and can be accessed on the IIA's YouTube channel, within the 'Live' category at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/@IndIngrelatingtoAfghanistan.

It is highly likely that before an Easter recess, the Inquiry will start to hear evidence in relation to Deliberate Detention Operations.

Disclosing Information

We continue to reach out to individuals who we require evidence from, in order to fulfil Rule 9 requests from the Inquiry. A Rule 9 evidence request is made under the Inquiries Act 2005 and is a legal notification sent to either individuals or organisations instructing them to provide relevant information or material to a Statutory Inquiry. 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.

The team would be grateful to hear from anyone who served in the RMP from January 2010-December 2013 in Afghanistan alongside UKSF as a searcher. Please contact the team using HQ PM(A) IIA group mailbox above.

If you have any other 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 can be found using the same link as above.

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

If you are aware of anyone that is affected by the IIA and if they are not already on our communications distribution list, please inform us & we will add them.

The Media

Several personnel have already been contacted by the media in relation to RMP legacy investigations, which is likely to continue as the Inquiry progresses. As all personnel both serving and retired are subject to the Official Secrets Act it is advised that you refer any enquiries to the MOD Press Office who will engage and ensure all enquiries are handled appropriately. Their contact number is: MOD Press Office. +44207 2187 907. 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. 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

Welfare

Your welfare throughout the proceedings remains of upmost importance to us and we will make ourselves available on any day of the week, or location, that suits you in order to provide you with the support you require. 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/

RMP IIA team:

ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk

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