Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan (IIA)

HQ PM(A) Update: May 2025

Inquiry Ruling

On Monday 12th May 2025, the Inquiry published a Ruling made by the Chair of the Inquiry, Lord Justice Haddon-Cave, in relation to witness N1141.

An Inquiry spokesperson said:

"N1141 has refused to provide a witness statement in response to a Rule 9 request and a section 21 Notice from the Inquiry in reliance on their privilege against self-incrimination. This witness's evidence is of considerable importance to the Inquiry which is seeking to establish the truth about grave allegations of extra judicial killings by UK Special Forces."

"N1141 has, accordingly, been issued with a further section 21 Notice, requiring their attendance at a hearing in person to provide evidence to assist the Inquiry, or to enable any claim of privilege against self-incrimination to be considered."

The Ruling can be viewed on the Inquiry website.

BBC Panorama

You will be aware that the BBC Panorama programme 'Panorama – Special Forces: I Saw War Crimes' aired on Monday 12th May 2025 and remains available to watch on the BBC iPlayer. There were also two BBC News articles published the same day 'Ex-UK Special Forces break

silence on 'war crimes' by colleagues' and 'Top UK Special Forces general oversaw blocking of Afghan 'war-crime' witnesses to Britain', as well as coverage on BBC Radio 4. There was also extensive coverage along these lines in the wider press on Tuesday 13th May.

It is highly likely that we will see more reporting in the media as the Inquiry's work continues.

These serious allegations emphasise the need of an independent public inquiry to get to the truth.

Your welfare remains of the upmost importance to us, so if you would like to discuss this coverage with a member of the RMP Inquiry team then please do get in touch via the multiuser mailbox 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.

If you have any information that you believe is relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, you may either contact us via the RMP Inquiry team 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/providing-information-to-the-inquiry/. 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 can be found using the same link as above.

If you have any information that does not fall within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference then we request that you report this to the Police.

The Defence Serious Crime Command (DSCC) is independent of the Chain of Command and responsible for investigating serious crime committed by persons subject to service law, in the UK and abroad. The Victim Witness Care Unit (VWCU) forms part of the DSCC and acts as a central point of contact for victims and witnesses of serious crime whilst providing support and guidance where required.

To find out more visit:

1. Defence Serious Crime Unit - Reporting a crime
2. Contact the VWCU

RMP Inquiry Team Uplift

The RMP Inquiry team which is supporting the RMP's response to the Inquiry is imminently being uplifted with an SO2 Witness Manager to ensure that our witnesses are best supported once they are called forward to give written and oral evidence.

Communications

All previous editions of this newsletter can be found on the Regimental Headquarters website under the 'Newsletters' section.

If you would like to receive this newsletter on a different email address, or if you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, then please contact SO1 Policy and Communications IIA via the group mailbox.

Disclosing Information

The Inquiry continue to reach out to individuals who they require evidence from with Rule 9 requests. 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. **We must highlight that the Inquiry does have the power to compel evidence under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005.**

If you are approached by the Inquiry please speak to the RMP Inquiry 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 approached to give evidence, this is the opportunity for you to provide your honest thoughts and opinions to support this vital work.

Please continue to monitor your inboxes to ensure that you are up to date with Inquiry related correspondence. If you wish to discuss anything about the Inquiry, please reach out to the RMP Inquiry team.

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 and we will add them.

The Media

Several personnel have 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 and 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: +44207 2187 907.

If you are contacted by the media, you should inform both us (using the group mailbox) and the MOD press office, using the following email address: DDC-PR-News@mod.gov.uk.

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):

ArmyPers-APSG-AOLB-0MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk

RMP Regimental Secretary:

Col Jeremy Green, Reg-Sec@RHQRMP.onmicrosoft.com

Adjutant General's Corps Headquarters:

Assistant Corps Secretary Maj (retired) Ben Culleton, AGCRHQ-0GroupMailbox@mod.gov.uk

The Veterans Gateway:

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

RMP Inquiry team:

ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk

Inquiry Welfare page:

https://www.iia.independent-inquiry.uk/support/

Useful Links

DefNet:

https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/SitePages/An-update-on-the-Independent-Inquiry-relating-to-Afghanistan.aspx

Defence Connect:

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

Inquiry website:

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

Inquiry Terms of Reference:

https://iiaweb-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/2023090_Terms_Of_Reference_IIA.pdf

MOD Inquiry SharePoint landing page (MODNet users only):

https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/IntranetMOD/SitePages/The-Independent-Inquiry-relating-to-Afghanistan.aspx?web=1

Feedback

We are very keen to hear your feedback regarding this newsletter. Is there something we can add that will make this process easier for you? Is there a section, not already included, that you would like to see? Would you like to see profiles of those in the RMP Inquiry team so that you can get to know us? Please don't hesitate to contact SO1 Policy and Communications IIA with your suggestions via the group mailbox.