Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan (IIA)

HQ PM(A) Newsletter: September 2026

Upcoming OPEN Hearings

The Inquiry have announced on their website that witnesses involved in the Operation NORTHMOOR and Operation CESTRO investigations will be providing their oral evidence in upcoming hearings during weeks commencing 12th October, 26th October and 9th November.

This series of planned hearings will be in OPEN and will be held at the International Dispute Resolution Centre, London. The Inquiry will be live-streaming the hearings on YouTube which will be subjected to a 10-minute delay.

If you are approached by the media to comment please continue to inform the RMP Inquiry team at ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk, and the MOD press office at DDC-PR-News@mod.gov.uk. Witnesses are reminded that they remain bound by the confidentiality undertaking that they have signed. As such, they are asked not to discuss, disclose, or confirm any information relating to the Inquiry with anyone who is not authorised to receive it.

Please continue to consider the amount of career detail that you post on your social media profile(s), as well as your account(s) privacy settings, as these 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.

The RMP Inquiry team will continue to monitor Inquiry related press coverage before, during and after the upcoming hearing window, and will be working with the Department's Directorate of Defence Communication's to handle any media queries. All publishers regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation have agreed to follow The Editor's Code of Practice.

Witness support remains a priority. Witnesses are encouraged to continue contacting the RMP Inquiry team at ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk with any queries and concerns they may have.

25th September OPEN Hearing

On 6th August 2026 the Ministry of Defence wrote to the Inquiry to say that they had recently discovered "97 million unique records [relating] to the period covered by the Terms of Reference". The letter also mentions "additional folders that may include relevant material". It was made clear that this material had not been reviewed or considered at all by the Ministry of Defence when responding to the Rule 9 requests for evidence that the Inquiry has issued over the last three years.

The Inquiry Chair called an OPEN hearing which was held at the Royal Courts of Justice on Friday 25th September 2026 to seek reassurances from the Ministry of Defence that:

(i) This discovery will be addressed by the Ministry of Defence quickly, efficiently, and proportionately, so that any material of real relevance is quickly identified and disclosed to the Inquiry, without disruption to the timings of the Inquiry's programme of work.

(ii) That the carrying out of (i) above by the Ministry of Defence does not impact on its ability to respond to the Inquiry's ongoing workstreams.

(iii) That the failure, in this incidence, of the Ministry of Defence, to respond to obviously important correspondence from the Inquiry as requested (or at all, until the hearing was scheduled) was an isolated episode and will not be repeated.

(iv) That steps will be taken to ensure that there will be no further similar revelations during the remaining course of the Inquiry, and that I will receive – in short order – written assurance from a senior official, that the Ministry of Defence is discharging its disclosure obligations to the Inquiry in accordance with the level of candour so clearly required.

Mr John Goss, on behalf of the RMP, was provided the opportunity to make observations. You can find Mr John Goss' remarks in the transcript of the hearing. It is located on page 20, lines 4-23.

16 Fourth, there are of course a number of serving
17 and veteran RMP personnel who have now been waiting some
18 time to give evidence, in particular about Operation
19 Northmoor. I am very grateful for the indication that
20 we've received from your counsel that this issue of
21 further material is not going to delay their evidence.
22 That is of the utmost importance to them and to the RMP.

1 - An excerpt from the hearing transcript of one of Mr John Goss' remarks.

The Chair stated his intention to provisionally direct a further OPEN hearing, at 10am on Friday 16th October where he requires an update from the MOD.

The full hearing transcript, as well as the Ministry of Defence and Inquiry letters, can be found on the Inquiry's website and the hearing can be watched in full on YouTube.



2 - The Royal Courts of Justice on 25th September 2026.

Inquiry Publishes Evidence from IIA Witnesses

In July, the Inquiry published the first set of a series of evidence received from witnesses who came forward directly in response to the Chair's call for information. The evidence published, heard in closed session, was provided by two individuals who raised concerns about the conduct of UK Special Forces in both the United Kingdom and Afghanistan.

The redacted transcript of Chris Green's evidence as well as a gist of Monica Grenfell's evidence can be found in the 'Documents' section on the Inquiry's website.

Witness Support

Captain Dale Patterson has joined the RMP Inquiry team as interim SO2 Witness Manager. He, alongside Staff Sergeant Jamie Yemm, will continue to provide support to all RMP witnesses that are and have been requested to provide evidence to the Inquiry.

They can be contacted via the multiuser mailbox (ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk) during normal working hours, or out of hours by appointment. Dale can be contacted via mobile for easier access, whether via call or text, at: +44 (0) 7717 451 962.

The expenses process remains in place to ensure that witnesses are reimbursed reasonable expenses (as set out in the Protocol for the payment of non-legal expenses by the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan ('the Inquiry')) when travelling to witness meetings with the Government Legal Department, in a timelier manner. Serving personnel will continue to submit claims via JPA. Veterans will now provide receipts to their GLD lawyer, who will then process them, ensuring timely payment via BACS. Further details on the process can be obtained from the RMP Inquiry team or GLD.

The Witness Support Leaflet outlines further support avenues, available to all witnesses.

RMP Inquiry Team Update

The RMP Inquiry team have recently received assurances from wider Army which has provided certainty for the RMP's long term response to the Inquiry.

This month, the team welcomed Major Tommy Dutton who has joined the team as SO2 Legal IIA. He has previously worked in support of 3rd (UK) Division and Standing Joint Command.

As above, the team have also welcomed Captain Dale Patterson to the team as interim SO2 Witness Manager. He joins the team from 1RMP.

Disclosing Information

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 (ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk) ***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.

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.

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

Communications

This newsletter is released on a quarterly basis. The next edition will be in December 2026.

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 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 (ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk).

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

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



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 at ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk 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.

Please be assured that support remains available through the chain of command, the RMP Regimental Secretary, the AGC Assistant Corps Secretary, the Army Operational Legacy Branch, and the Veterans Gateway. Should you have any concerns you wish to discuss; please do not hesitate to do so.

We encourage you to reach out to the following individuals and organisations for support, should you need it:

RMP Inquiry team:

ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk

SSgt Jamie Yemm:

+44 (0) 7717 451 962

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/

Inquiry Support page:

Support - Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan

Op COURAGE:

Access Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service - GOV.UK

National Bullying Helpline:

Cyberbullying and online harassment | Bullying online advice

Useful Links

Defence Connect:

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

Inquiry website:

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

Inquiry Terms of Reference:

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. Please don't hesitate to contact SO1 Policy and Communications IIA with your suggestions via the group mailbox.