



Amy Nicholls [REDACTED]

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**Fwd: [EXT] IICSA - CPIROS - Note on Virtual Hearings**1 message

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From: **Rachel Stone** [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, 31 Mar 2020 at 16:13  
Subject: RE: [EXT] IICSA - CPIROS - Note on Virtual Hearings  
To: [solicitors@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:solicitors@iicsa.org.uk) <[solicitors@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:solicitors@iicsa.org.uk)>  
Cc: Caroline Sanderson <[REDACTED]>, Tim Coolican [REDACTED]

Dear Amy,

Thank you for your email and attachment of 27 March setting out the plans for continuing with the Inquiry by use of a 'virtual hearing room'.

Responses from The Baptist Union of Great Britain are set out below:

- a. *Whether they agree in principle that, in the current circumstances, the investigation hearing can and should be held remotely in the way set out above*

Yes, we are happy to agree to this as a practical and sensible way forward.

- b. *Whether there are any practical difficulties they foresee to the holding of a virtual hearing - e.g. lack of availability of suitable broadband connections etc.*

Based on the technology described in your outline, we confirm that our own technology should allow for a suitable connection as needed.

- c. *Whether they agree to the Inquiry's proposal that the Inquiry proceed with a virtual hearing commencing 20 April 2020 as planned. If not, providing reasons, in detail about the availability of individual core participants and witnesses if non-availability of key personnel is a particular issue and whether potential alternative hearing slots in May or June 2020 could be used instead*

Yes, we agree with the proposal to proceed with a virtual hearing commencing 20 April 2020.

We believe that proceeding with the Inquiry in a timely manner is helpful for reducing duplication of preparation and pre-Inquiry reading, both of which we have already invested heavily in terms of time and legal fees.

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d. *Whether they agree with the Inquiry's provisional analysis that section 18(1) of the 2005 Act requires a livestream of proceedings to the public where physical access cannot be provided and therefore the Inquiry should proceed even though a three minute delay to the transmission is not possible.*

Yes, we agree that the Inquiry should progress even without the three minute delay, recognising that this will require additional caution and care on the part of all participants.

It would be helpful to be made aware of the schedule for witnesses as soon as possible to ensure that individuals and their legal representatives are available as needed.

With kind regards,

Rachel

**Rachel Stone**

HR and Safeguarding Team Leader

Direct dial: 



Baptist Union of Great Britain Baptist House PO Box 44 [129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT England](https://www.baptist.org.uk)  
[www.baptist.org.uk](https://www.baptist.org.uk) facsimile 01235 517715  
Registered Charity Number 1181392

