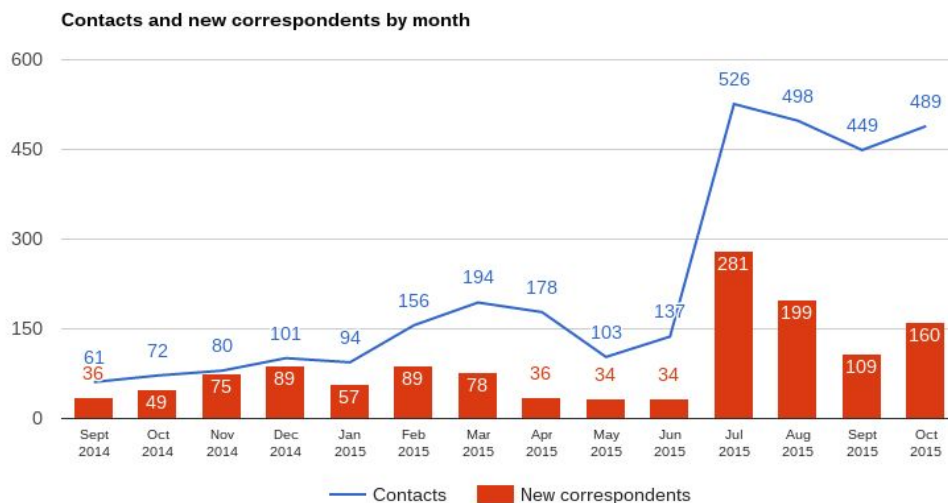


Inquiry Business Update

This note provides an update on the work of the Inquiry so far this year. It should be read in conjunction with the Chair’s statement of 27 November, which announces the first set of investigations to be conducted by the Inquiry and describes progress with the pilot of the Truth Project and the Research Project.

Contact with the Inquiry

The Inquiry has been receiving enquiries, information and offers of help from the public and institutions through its Information and Engagement Hub. As of the end of October 2015, the Inquiry had received over 3,100 contacts from 1,361 different correspondents. The chart below shows how the number of contacts has risen over the life of the Inquiry¹:

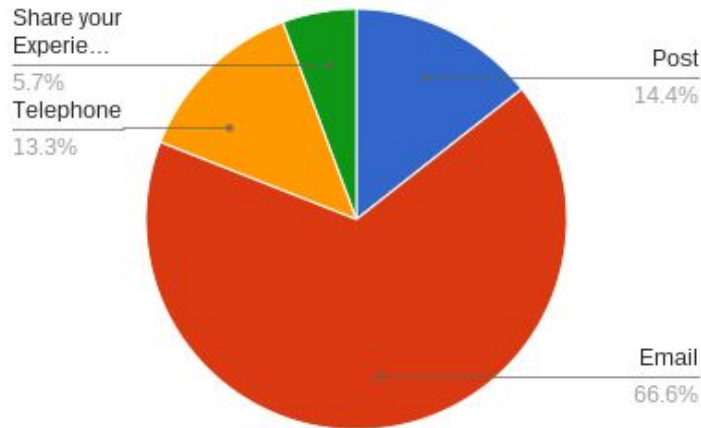


There was a significant increase in contacts to the Inquiry following the Opening Statement in July 2015; this has broadly been sustained.

The vast majority of contacts to the Inquiry have come through online channels - either the email contact form or the ‘Share your experience’ form. A breakdown of the channels used to contact the Inquiry are shown on the next page.

¹ A contact is when the Hub receives any form of communication. This includes emails, telephone calls and letters. The Hub has had a total of over 3100 contacts. The Hub has been contacted by (approx) 1328 distinct correspondents. Most of these (65%) have only contacted the Inquiry once, but in some instances there has been ongoing correspondence (with many separate contacts related to the same individual/ organisation reference number).

Channel through which contact received



Victims and Survivors Forum

We are in the process of setting up the Victims and Survivors Forum. We have asked the VSCP to advise us how best to achieve meaningful engagement and participation through this forum, including learning from victims and survivors organisations and existing networks. We will provide a further update on the Victims and Survivors Forum in early 2016.

Building our infrastructure

The Inquiry has continued to build its internal infrastructure. We have begun the process of procuring a long-term provider for the Inquiry's helpline, currently provided by the NSPCC. A consultation event has been held with organisations who we hope will participate in the procurement exercise for the long-term helpline contract. We are now working to finalise all the required documentation for the procurement, which we will launch early in the New Year.

We are also conducting a number of other procurements. We are close to the award of contracts to provide the Inquiry's core IT system, essential for managing the unprecedented levels of documentation we will need to manage, and for safeguarding support for Inquiry staff, who will need to deal with challenging and difficult information throughout the lifetime of the Inquiry. We have also awarded a contract to Fieldfisher, a leading firm of solicitors with extensive experience of supporting public inquiries.

The services and infrastructure secured through these procurements are essential to ensuring that we are equipped to conduct the significant programme of work which has been announced by the Inquiry. This work supports the roll-out of the Inquiry's network of regional offices, which will take place through the first half of 2016.

Finance

The Inquiry budget for 2015/16 is £17.9m and will cover the main costs for setting up the infrastructure required to run the Inquiry. We will publish further updates on expenditure by the Inquiry and set out here actual expenditure by the Inquiry for the period up until the end of September. We have spent just over £4.1m for this period, which breaks down as set out in the following paragraphs. The rate of expenditure will continue to increase through the year as the Inquiry's work progresses.

We have spent just under £2.3m on staffing and related costs such as training for those working on the Inquiry. This includes the costs for the Chair and Panel, the legal team and the Secretariat. We are continuing to recruit staff for key roles within the Inquiry. We are currently concluding recruitment campaigns for staff to work on the research project and for investigators to help deliver the set of investigations announced today.

We have spent just over £480k on the set-up and running of the Inquiry's offices across England and Wales. We are committed to ensuring that people in all parts of England and Wales are able to access the Inquiry.

We have spent just over £750k developing the IT services and infrastructure needed to support the Inquiry's work. We will need to manage an unprecedented volume of documentary evidence and other material and it is essential that we have an IT infrastructure which will store that information securely.

We have spent just over £390k on other operational costs for the Inquiry, including the safeguarding support we have put in place for those working with the Inquiry. Finally, we have spent just over £250k on other set-up costs for the Inquiry.

27 November 2015