

Update Statement 27 November 2015 - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why have you chosen these specific investigations?

The 12 investigations announced on 27 November represent only the first phase of the investigatory work the Inquiry will conduct. Further investigations will be announced as the Inquiry progresses.

The criteria for selection of the first phase of investigations can be found at:

www.iicsa.org.uk/investigations

The Chair and Panel sought to balance the investigation of non-recent allegations of abuse with urgent, contemporary issues of child protection.

The 12 investigations will enable the Inquiry to piece together a broad picture of how institutions have failed to protect children from sexual abuse across the five workstreams of the Inquiry: that is, failures by local authorities; failures in the areas of criminal justice and law enforcement; in education and religion; in national and private service organisations; and in relation to alleged abuse by persons of public prominence.

2. What are the timescales? How long will these investigations take?

It is impossible to put a timescale on the completion of all of this work, but it is reasonable to assume that while some of the investigations may be completed within 18 months, others may take several years to conclude. In some cases, overlapping criminal proceedings may cause delay to the progress of individual investigations. Nonetheless, in her opening statement in July, the Chair committed to completing the work of the Inquiry within five years. The current assessment is that that timeframe, whilst ambitious, is achievable.

3. When will the public hearings actually start?

Preliminary hearings will begin in February 2016. These hearings will consider applications from those who wish to be designated as core participants and will deal with other procedural matters the Inquiry needs to consider. They will also provide direction on the scope, format and timescales for the main public hearings.

4. What format will the Public Hearings take?

The Public Hearings may take a range of formats, but will in general resemble hearings in a conventional public inquiry. They will be open to the public although seating may be limited.

Each stage of public hearings will be announced via the appropriate investigation pages on our website.

5. Why haven't you chosen the case that I have written to you about?

As the statement makes clear, this is by no means the total of the work we intend to conduct. Despite the enormous amount of work this will involve this is not the end.

6. When will the next batch of investigations be announced?

The 12 investigations announced on 27 November represent the first phase of the investigatory work the Inquiry will conduct. Further investigations will be announced as the Inquiry progresses. At this stage we cannot comment on when further investigations will be announced. The website will be kept updated: www.iicsa.org.uk

7. What does the launch of the investigation process mean for victims and survivors?

The launch of the first phase of investigations is a positive step for victims and survivors. It will give a voice to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional settings. We have outlined 12 investigations initially and will be publishing information on our website in the coming weeks as we develop timetables for how these investigations will proceed.

8. Should I get in touch with the Inquiry now?

While the Inquiry is not accepting applications for core participant status or requesting evidence just yet victims and survivors who wish to get in touch can do so by contacting our Helpline 0800 917 1000, emailing us as contact@iicsa.org.uk or writing to us at Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, PO Box 72289, London, SW1P 9LF.

While we are not requesting evidence for our investigations at this stage, victims and survivors are always welcome to [Share your experience](#).

9 a) I am responsible for an organisation which has been named or may be covered by one of the investigations announced. What should I do?

You should look at the investigations page on the website where in due course you will also find the procedural timetables for each investigation. You should ensure that all relevant material is preserved, further details can be found in the letter from the Chair published on 30 June 2015 in our [key documents section](#).

b) I worked or currently work in one of the organisations named and I have information for the inquiry. What should I do?

You should contact us if you think this applies to you. We will also provide further information

and updates on the website when we are ready to receive information about your institution or organisation that will explain what you need to do.

10. What is core participant status?

A core participant has a formal role as defined by legislation.

Core participants have special rights in the Inquiry process. These include receiving disclosure of documentation, being represented and making legal submissions, suggesting questions and receiving advance notice of the Inquiry's report.

The Chair will make the decision on who is granted core participant status. Core participants can include anyone with a direct or significant role in the subject of the Inquiry, anyone who has a significant interest in it, or who may be subject to criticism. We anticipate that applications for core participant status will open in relation to some of the investigations before the end of the year, with preliminary hearings commencing in February next year to consider those applications and any subsequent applications for funding.