

# Inquiries, Inquiries, Inquiries



[Prof Brian Edwards](#) updates us with the latest...

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**There are currently 27 formal inquiries underway into the NHS in the UK. More are likely, including one into maternity care.**

**T**he four most prominent are Formal Public Inquires. The current state of play is as follows.

## Covid

Into the last of ten formal segments “Impact on Society”. More reports on earlier modules will be published during 2026 including those on procurement, test and trace and vaccines. Report not due until 2027.

*Cost so far* £200m plus £100 on legal advice and support for witnesses within government departments.

## Thirlwell

Letby and Chester

Public hearings completed. Report due April 2026.

*Cost in the region* of £20m. Will not address question of Letby’s guilt or innocence.

## El Jamel/Tayside

Conduct and clinical practice of Consultant. Chair Lord Weir.

*Cost so far* £5m. Probably report 2027.

*I will report on this inquiry once it starts its substantive public hearings as the finding may impact on the NHS in all countries of the UK.*

## Lampard

Deaths of mentally ill patients in Essex. Into second of four phases. Looks like 2027 for report. Might prove to be the *Mid Staffordshire* moment for mental health.

*Cost so far* £7.5m and counting.

## Muckamore

A safeguarding Inquiry into a learning disability hospital in Antrim. Public hearings complete but report not due until spring.

*Cost in the order* of £5m.

Public Inquiries with lawyers are first class at establishing the facts but take too long and are too costly.

Whatever learning there might be comes miles too late.

Sometimes this delay is politically convenient.

There must be a better way of establishing the facts when things go wrong and finding means to prevent their reoccurrence.

The test will be finding a way forward that satisfies aggrieved patients and their families...

... perhaps allowing them to nominate an inquiry member as well as giving evidence.