
SUBMISSIONS REGARDING
THE STATEMENT OF APPROACH/INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGY
ON BEHALF OF NELFT

1. NELFT is grateful to the Inquiry for outlining in detail its Statement of Approach (SOA) /Investigative strategy (IS) and the Inquiry's proposed future work.
2. NEFLT notes that the Inquiry has invited submissions on the substance of this SOA /IS.
3. These submissions relate only to timelines about those aspects of the Inquiry's work set out in the SOA/IS.
4. The Inquiry previously notified all Core Participants the Inquiry's dates of hearings for 2025 and 2026 far in advance of the dates when hearings took place which was extremely helpful.
5. NELFT submits that in order to assist the Inquiry regarding the various evidential matters spanning 23 years it would also be helpful to have some timelines attached to the SOA/IS even if these are draft or subject to change.
6. In addition it would assist NELFT and the other Core Participants if the Inquiry is able to indicate what work it expects NELFT to carry out in the future to assist the Inquiry in its work. This would allow NELFT to allocate sufficient resources, plan accordingly and ensure that it has been thorough when collating information.
7. NELFT would ask if the Inquiry intends to explore with expert evidence the following matters:
 - i) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
 - ii) Dual diagnoses

8. NELFT would also wish to understand if the Inquiry's expert statistician will be considering the inter-relationship of physical health issues and mental health issues as a topic.
9. NELFT invites the Inquiry Chair to consider whether on the current SOA/IS it is possible that much of the Inquiry's work will not be heard during public hearings. It appears from the Investigative Strategy that the current proposal for closing submissions in October 2026 appears to be somewhat ambitious. If there are to be further hearings it would be useful to have advance notice of these.

1 December 2025