

# Lampard Inquiry Newsletter – Spring, 2026

---



Welcome to the Lampard Inquiry newsletter. We have set up this newsletter to keep you informed about updates on the Inquiry's work, progress and upcoming activity. This, our first newsletter, is sent during Mental Health Awareness Month, and as we intend to send this newsletter on a quarterly basis, your next edition will be in August.

## **Staff Evidence**

The Inquiry has so far requested evidence from over 60 members of staff, with experience spanning the relevant period. We have recently increased efforts to obtain written evidence from staff members.

We understand that being asked to provide evidence may cause staff some concern. The Inquiry team would be happy to talk through the process with any staff member and provide information about the support that is available. Please email [contact@lampardinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@lampardinquiry.org.uk) with the subject line "Staff Evidence" and the team will get in touch. There is further information on [our FAQ page for staff](#).

## **Family evidence**

We remain grateful to the families that have engaged with our Inquiry and provided evidence so far. This includes the 71 families who gave commemorative evidence at two dedicated hearings; 81 written statements and 43 spoken evidence at hearings, from families of those who have died, setting out concerns around care.

During April and May, we have been busy recording an additional 10 evidence sessions with families, which have now concluded.

Recorded evidence is a way to provide evidence to the Inquiry in a less formal environment.

Our Chair has carefully read in full *all* of the statements from families, including written, spoken and recorded evidence. The Chair will decide what further evidence from families may be needed and she will be expressing her thanks for this evidence to families in the coming weeks.

## **Family evidence on our website**

By the end of May, a new section will be added under 'Evidence' to our website, which will allow visitors to the site to easily access all in one place the family and friends witness statements, oral evidence and commemorative and impact evidence, both written and oral.

We have developed this section of the website to make it easier for families to navigate and to find this evidence and information.

## **Case summaries**

Since February, we have shared 85 draft Case Summaries with relevant families or their legal representatives, providers and other key organisations. The remaining case summaries will be sent out over the summer.

Case Summaries are designed to include, in summary format, the concerns set out by families which the Inquiry has received to date through statements and oral evidence. They will also include previous findings and recommendations. These summaries help us effectively investigate the systemic issues relevant to our Inquiry and consider what action(s) have been taken by providers and other relevant organisations.

More information on Case Summaries can be found in the [Chair's Open Letter to Families](#) and our [Statement of Approach – Investigating Illustrative Cases](#).

### **Corporate evidence**

Our extensive work to gather evidence from mental health providers and other key organisations continues. We have now sent out over 500 evidential requests, known as Rule 9 requests, to corporate bodies and other stakeholders seeking evidence and relevant information.

Our Chair has also issued 13 formal legal orders, known as Section 21 notices, to corporate stakeholders. These notices compel the relevant organisation to provide evidence and documents to the Inquiry. 10 of these notices were issued when the Chair considered there were issues with compliance.

### **Development of a new government strategy on mental health**

In May, the Government announced it is [developing a new mental health strategy](#) that will transform care in England and drive a shift from crisis intervention to preventative care.

Frontline workers, clinicians and mental health experts are being invited to share their views with government on how to transform mental health care.

We will work closely with government on this work. This includes considering how we can feed into the call for evidence and new strategy, as well as ensuring that this significant work may feed into the development of our recommendations.

## Hearings

### **Our last public hearing - February 2026**

During our last public hearing, held from 2-16 February, we heard oral evidence from 13 family and friends of those who have died. This was the final hearing to be dedicated primarily to hearing evidence from the family and friends of those who have died. The unique experiences, recollections and observations shared by families and friends are fundamentally important for the Inquiry's work and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has given evidence to Inquiry so far.

### **Our next public hearing – July 2026**

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for our next public hearing, which will begin on 6 July. The hearing has been refocused, principally in response to emerging evidence and areas requiring the Inquiry's urgent attention, and partly due to ongoing issues relating to Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust's (EPUT) engagement with the Inquiry. The July 2026 hearing will now focus on:

- **Observations and Use of Technology:** The Inquiry will explore an evidence-led examination of these issues, including the continued use of Oxevision.
- **Resuscitation:** This is an emerging area of concern arising from multiple accounts and the Chair will begin hearing evidence on this issue in July.
- **Further Evidence from bereaved families:** Families remain central to the Inquiry's work and the Chair wishes to invite a number of further families to provide evidence at this hearing.
- **Evidence from Staff:** The Inquiry will begin to hear oral evidence from those who have worked for providers of mental health inpatient care in Essex.
- **EPUT Engagement and Compliance Issues:** Examination of issues relating to EPUT's engagement with the Inquiry.

You will now find all hearings, past and future and, present available on the '[Hearings](#)' page. A witness list for the July hearing will be published on the Inquiry website as soon as possible before the hearing. [Logistical information](#) on our website provides details about the hearing venue and facilities, how to register to attend, and the Inquiry's support offer.

### Possibility of Interim Recommendations

The Chair will consider evidence heard at the hearing in July and evidence heard in October, along with other relevant evidence, to inform her decision on whether the Inquiry may consider issuing interim recommendations.

---

### Support and wellbeing

Please be aware that the hearings may contain descriptions of death and suicide, from the start and throughout, which some people may find distressing. If you require support, please visit the support section on the Inquiry's website for information about how you may be able to access this.

---

### Social media

Follow the Lampard Inquiry on [X](#) and [YouTube](#) for updates.

---

### Contact

For questions that are not answered on the website please email: [contact@lampardinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@lampardinquiry.org.uk)  
If you are a member of the press, please contact: [press@crestadvisory.com](mailto:press@crestadvisory.com)

***Helen Gibson – Secretary to the Inquiry***