

Eljamel Inquiry – A Trauma Informed Inquiry Consultation

Consultation Questions

Scotland recognises five trauma-informed principles. We are seeking views on how best this Inquiry, dealing with the circumstances and issues we are investigating, can incorporate these important principles in our work.

Our consultation questions are structured around these 5 principles.

1. **Safety.**

We want to prioritise the physical and emotional safety of all participants, especially those who have experienced significant trauma.

We have already taken steps to make sure that our hearings are conducted in a secure venue and have provided security staff to help achieve that. We have also tried to create an emotionally safe environment by making sure that those attending hearings have access to specialist emotional support. We have started training our staff in trauma-informed practice and that will continue as the size of the Inquiry team grows. Our [public hearings protocol](#) also sets out how we will seek to minimise the need to ask people to recount traumatic events.

What more could we do to make engaging with the Inquiry safer and feel safer?

2. **Trustworthiness**

Trust is vital to the legitimacy and effectiveness of any Public Inquiry. We want to build and maintain trust with all those who are involved in our work. However, we recognise that for some people, their trauma will make it harder for them to trust us.

We believe that transparency is key to building trust. We have been as open as possible about the scope of our Terms of Reference and how we are interpreting them through the List of Issues. We have also been clear about what can be expected of a Public Inquiry. Our primary aim is to establish facts, determine what happened, what went wrong and who was responsible, learn lessons, and make recommendations but do so in a way which seeks to be clear, collaborative with and respectful of those with an interest in our work as per the Inquiry's principles.

Is there anything else you would like to see the Inquiry doing that would increase your trust in the process?

3. Choice

Offering genuine choice is often important for people who have been disempowered by traumatic experiences.

Wherever possible we are seeking to offer people choice. Sometimes this might be a small choice, such as filling in a form online or on paper. Sometimes it is more fundamental, such as the choice to attend a hearing in person or online. We are also seeking feedback on our process and will be clear about where we have been able to change things in response.

Are there any choices you would like to be able to make, in particular how would you like the Inquiry team to communicate and engaged with you? Is there anything we should avoid?

4. Collaboration

We recognise the invaluable experience of those with direct experience of the subject matter covered by our Terms of Reference. Working in a collaborative environment will strengthen the Inquiry's findings and recommendations.

We ran an engagement event to better understand views about the scope and Terms of Reference of the Inquiry. Where people who have experienced trauma have been granted core participant status, we are providing funding to enable their lawyers to understand their views. We have provided opportunities at the Preliminary Hearing and Opening Statement Hearings for them to contribute to the planning and work of the Inquiry.

What ways would you like to see the Inquiry collaborate with people who have experienced trauma, both with and without legal representation?

5. Empowerment

We want the Inquiry to acknowledge the suffering of those who have been affected, and for those who have experienced trauma to know that their experiences and contributions have been heard.

What can the Inquiry do to help make it clear where the voice of people who have experienced trauma has influenced our work?

6. Please use this space to tell us anything else you would like us to consider.

Next Steps

Thank you for completing this consultation questionnaire. Your responses will help us understand and set out, in writing, what being a trauma-informed public inquiry means for us. It will help us put measures in place to seek to make our process truly trauma-informed.

The Inquiry has a wide range of obligations so may not be able to implement every suggestion made in this consultation process. In some cases, people who have experienced trauma may want different things or suggest steps be taken which are incompatible with each other. In other cases, suggestions might conflict with our legal obligations such as the duty to be impartial and independent. However, we will listen to, and consider, every suggestion seriously and we will seek to reach a balance that respects the needs of people who have experienced trauma.

Within four weeks of the end of the consultation we will produce a report setting out what the key messages from the consultation responses are. We will then use that report to write a statement of what being a trauma-informed Inquiry will mean for us going forward in the context of our Terms of Reference. You will have an opportunity to comment on that statement. There will then be further consultation opportunities as we develop and implement a wider engagement strategy.