

What is disclosure?

Disclosure is a normal part of many types of legal proceedings, including public inquiries. It is the process whereby the Inquiry makes relevant evidence available ('discloses it') to its core participants in advance of it being examined at a hearing. This ensures that core participants have the chance to consider and prepare to respond to evidence before it is used or referred to at evidential hearings.

Relevant evidence could include anything which has been submitted to the Inquiry, such as witness statements or expert reports, or any other piece of information that the Inquiry considers whilst fulfilling its Terms of Reference. This process of disclosure will continue throughout the Inquiry as evidence continues to be received.

Relevant evidence which has been considered during the course of the Inquiry hearings will be published on the Inquiry's website.

Who decides what is disclosed?

- The Inquiry writes to individuals and organisations asking them to provide evidence which is relevant to its work. This is known as a call for evidence.
- Individuals and organisations must provide the requested evidence to the best of their ability.
- All the evidence received will be assessed to ensure it is relevant to the issues being considered by the Inquiry.
- The Inquiry will disclose all relevant evidence to core participants.
- The Chairman will consider requests for redactions to documents such as personal data. If he does not consider that grounds for redaction have been made out, he will notify the document provider before the documents are disclosed to core participants.

What if someone tries to avoid disclosing evidence to the Inquiry?

- The Chairman has powers to require the production of evidence. Failure to comply may result in serious penalties.
- There have been no cases of people or organisations refusing to provide evidence to this Inquiry.