

**INQUIRY INTO THE RETIREMENT OF THE
FORMER COMMISSIONER OF POLICE**

8TH PRESS NOTICE

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY UPDATE: PROGRESS OF DRAFTING FINAL REPORT AND
MAXWELLISATION PROCESS**

The purpose of this Press Release is to update the public in relation to progress of preparation of the Inquiry's final report.

Under section 24 of the Inquiries Act ("the Act"), the Chairman of the Inquiry (Sir Peter Openshaw DL) must deliver his report to the Government setting out the facts determined by him, and that report may also contain anything else the Chairman considers to be relevant to the terms of reference, including any recommendations he sees fit to make.

Neither the Terms of Reference nor the Act prescribe any timings or deadline for the delivery of a report to the Government. However, the Chairman is firmly committed to delivering his report as soon as practicable.

Since the conclusion of oral evidence on 9 May 2024 and the hearing of oral closing submissions from Core Participants on 25 and 26 June 2024, the Inquiry has received additional evidence (as well as submissions and representations) which have been the subject of due consideration by the Chairman.

The Chairman continues to work on his draft report with a view to the Inquiry commencing an intended *Maxwellisation* process as soon as practicable and preferably before Christmas.

In general terms, *Maxwellisation* is a practice where an inquiry intending to criticise any individual in a report to be published provides an appropriate opportunity to that individual to respond to the proposed criticism in advance of publication.

It is anticipated that the Maxwellisation process will take approximately three months, and once it is completed, the Chairman should be in a position to finalise his report and

deliver it to the Government as foreseen by section 24 of the Act as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. Without giving any binding commitment, unless any unforeseen contingency arises, the Inquiry anticipates (at this juncture and subject to the envisaged Maxwellisation process) that the Report will likely be delivered in late Spring 2025. Under section 25 of the Inquiries Act, it will then be the duty of the Government to arrange for the Report to be published.

18 November 2024