

INTERESTED PARTIES

Definition of an Interested Party

'Interested Party' status is afforded to:

- The families of Adam, Lucy and Raychel
- An organisation or individual who the Inquiry considers played or should have played a direct and substantial role in the care and treatment of Adam, Lucy and Raychel in the circumstances referred to in its Terms of Reference
- A statutory authority, other organisation or responsible individual who the Inquiry considers was concerned in the procedures, investigations and events which followed the deaths of Adam, Lucy and Raychel and were for the purpose of discovering why the children died and ensuring that any lessons would be learned
- A statutory authority who provided explanations to the families of Adam, Lucy and Raychel as to what happened to their children and why they died

The Consequences of Interested Party Status

An organisation or individual who has Interested Party status will be entitled to:

- Receive DVDs and or hard copies of the written evidence
- Receive a list of those from whom witness statements have been sought
- Access to the witness statements received by the Inquiry
- Suggest additional witnesses from whom witness statements should be sought and suggest additional witnesses to give evidence at the oral hearings
- Have legal representation for the oral hearings, in which case they can either pay for it themselves or can apply to have it funded by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in which case Interested Parties with common or similar interests will be expected to appear before the Inquiry through one Leading Counsel unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman
- Have their Counsel make an opening statement at the appropriate part of the oral hearings
- Suggest to Counsel to the Inquiry lines of questioning to be put to a witness at the oral hearings
- Have their Counsel engage in limited cross-examination of a witness during the oral hearings

- Have their Counsel conduct re-examination of their evidence after Counsel to the Inquiry has cross-examined them
- Have their Counsel make a closing statement and or closing written submissions
- Respond to an area of criticism or potential criticism by being recalled to give further evidence either during the oral hearings or during a reconvened oral hearing

Ad hoc grant of Interested Party Status

The Inquiry retains the discretion to grant Interested Party status to any individual, body or organisation for which such status is appropriate having regard to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry and their particular circumstances. In doing so the Inquiry shall be at liberty to determine which of the entitlements of Interested Party status shall be afforded to them and the areas of the Inquiry's work for which they should be granted that status.