

Stakeholder Update

May 2024

During the first half of 2024, among other areas, our work has continued towards publication of the Hillsborough investigations' report and website. As part of this work, we have considered the naming representations we have received and continue to address the impact of the Salmon process, to ensure that we have captured the outcomes of both. We do not yet have a publication date for the report and website; however, we will keep all stakeholders updated.

Our Legacy team is undertaking the vital task of permanently preserving Hillsborough investigation material. This is an important and continuous piece of work, and as such we have an area dedicated to it on the Hillsborough section of the IOPC website at policeconduct.gov.uk/hillsborough. We will keep this section of the website updated as this work progresses.

Update on Hillsborough investigations' complaint and conduct matters

In our December 2023 update we said that we would provide an update on complaint and conduct matters. The individual investigations into complaints are now complete and have been reviewed by the Hillsborough decision maker, Sarah Green.

The reports will set out:

- what happened
- what and how we investigated
- what evidence our investigators found
- our analysis of the evidence.

We are legally obliged under the Police Reform Act (PRA) legislation to send the reports to the relevant police force or police and crime commissioner, and to inform them of the decision maker's draft opinions and decisions. Under the PRA, they are then given an opportunity to review the reports and make representations to us. This

happens with every IOPC independent investigation whether it is related to the Hillsborough disaster or not.

This process has started, and South Yorkshire Police, West Midlands Police, Cheshire Police, and the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner have received some of the reports in order for them to make representations to us, should they choose to do so. As decision maker, Sarah Green will consider any representations made to us, but we are under no obligation to accept or include any comments made, unless Sarah feels it is appropriate to do so.

There are more than 150 complaint and conduct investigations, which means this is a significant, yet necessary, task to ensure our overall investigation is as robust as possible and complies with our legal obligations under the PRA.

As all the officers subject to a complaint or conduct matter have retired, no former officer can face disciplinary proceedings. However, in her role as decision maker, Sarah Green can comment on:

- whether any police officer would have had a case to answer, if they were still serving
- whether complaints are upheld when there is no indication that an officer may have committed a criminal offence or breached professional standards
- whether there are lessons to be learned by an individual police officer or indeed the police service as a whole.

Hillsborough investigations' complaint outcome letters

Complainants in our investigation will receive a letter with the outcome of their complaint. This letter will set out the details of the investigation undertaken, an analysis of the evidence, and the opinions and decisions made by decision maker Sarah Green. Those former officers who are the subject of a complaint or conduct matter will also receive a letter with that specific outcome.

The outcome letter will be sent individually but will not be made publicly available at that point. We have taken this decision so that complainants and former officers do not have to wait until the Hillsborough investigations' website is launched to know the outcome of the complaint. When the website is launched, a large number of the complaint reports and outcomes will be made publicly available.

Hillsborough families, because of their statutory “Interested Person” status, will receive their own outcome letters but also the outcomes of specific complaint and conduct matters into the actions of South Yorkshire Police and West Midlands Police.

We will continue to keep all of our stakeholders updated on the progress of the investigation.

To find out more about our work or to request this report in an alternative format, you can contact us in a number of ways:

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We welcome telephone calls in Welsh

Rydym yn croesawu galwadau ffôn yn y Gymraeg

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