

April 2021 update from independent inquiry Chair – Susanne Tanner QC

Over the past few months, the Inquiry and Review teams have been working hard and we have been greatly encouraged by the volume of contributions, from a wide selection of Council employees, officers, elected members, trade unions, members of the public, professional bodies and others. Further information on the work of the Inquiry and the Review is outlined below.

We're pleased to have been able to make such good progress despite the continuing restrictions imposed by the pandemic, as most participants have been able to engage remotely with the use of technology, and both reports are due later this year.

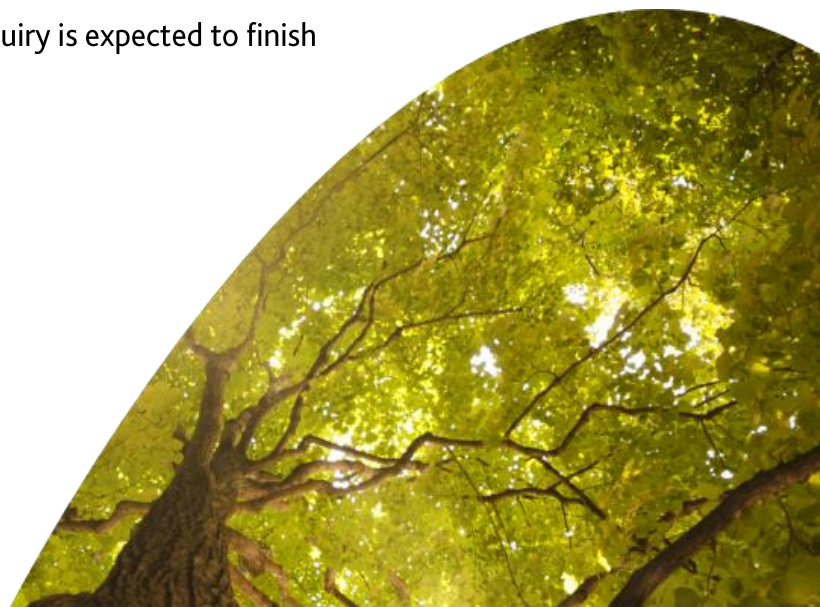
Thank you to all of those who have contributed so far and to the teams at Pinsent Masons for their ongoing effort and support.

Susanne Tanner QC



Inquiry into allegations concerning the conduct of the late Sean Bell

- As of the beginning of April 2021, over 70 interviews with witnesses have been conducted by the Inquiry Team.
- The response to the internal and external calls for evidence was substantial, and the Team have been grateful for the opportunity to speak to so many witnesses. It's anticipated that all witness interviews will finish by the end of April.
- The Council provided a vast amount of documentation and information all of which has been assessed and reviewed. Over 500,000 documents were processed by the Inquiry Team, with approximately 75,000 of those being deemed relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. All of which have now been assessed and considered.
- The 'final report' is being drafted, and the inquiry is expected to finish by the end of June 2021.



Review of whistleblowing and organisational culture

The Review is progressing well and the call for evidence has now closed. We expect to provide our report in the summer of 2021.

- A survey in relation to the Council's whistleblowing and organisational culture was issued to all colleagues in January and closed on 12 February 2021.
- There were 1,447 participants.
- The data has been processed and is informing the workshops and interviews that are currently taking place.

- As of the beginning of April 2021, over 200 people have contacted the team to provide information in response to the call for evidence and subsequent communications from the Council. This is an excellent response and far exceeds the anticipated number of respondents at the outset of the Review.
- Over 150 telephone or Microsoft Teams calls have been carried out with various people who wished to provide information to the review.
- Nineteen detailed interviews have been carried out with senior Council officers, elected members, colleagues and trade union representatives. Further detailed interviews are being organised.
- The call for evidence is now closed, and the team is currently reviewing all the evidence provided.

- Workshops have been held to obtain the views of a cross-section of different groups from across the Council, including colleagues, elected members and trade union representatives.
- At the start of April, seventeen workshops have been held, and many follow up one-to-one discussions have taken place. Nine further workshops are planned for later this month and into May.

- The Council has provided a substantial amount of documentation – a lot of which has been identified in the course of calls with those responding to the call for evidence, interviews and workshops – and the team are currently in the process of reviewing all documentation.

