

### **Inquiry procedure on the disclosure of potential criticism**

In his Opening Statement the Chairman announced that those who became the subject of potential criticism would be informed in writing and given 21 days to respond, subject to a prior undertaking as to confidentiality.

Consequently, the Inquiry is proceeding as follows:

- The Panel is currently considering those who may be subject to formal criticism on matters of material importance related to the subject matter of the Inquiry.
- The Solicitor to the Inquiry is contacting all legal representatives and relevant witnesses requesting an undertaking as to confidentiality, in the event that it is necessary.
- Subsequently in appropriate cases, on receipt of these undertakings, a letter will be sent briefly setting out the potential criticisms and identifying the evidence on which they are based.
- The Solicitor must receive any response at the Bristol Office (details below) within 21 days; only in exceptional circumstances will this time be extended. Any application for extension must be made in writing, with reasons, before the end of the original period.
- The Panel will consider the responses, taking them into account in the final formulation of the Report.

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