

Stakeholder Update

March 2022

Update to the Hillsborough investigation Terms of Reference (ToR).

We routinely keep the ToRs for the IOPC and Operation Resolve investigations under review and we have recently made some minor revisions. The reasons for this are detailed below:

1. To reflect the changes in the names of organisations (e.g. the IPCC to the IOPC, Police Authorities to the Police and Crime Commissioners) and to update who the Hillsborough Decision Maker is.
2. We have also made some minor revisions to ensure our legal powers are more accurately represented and that they stand up to scrutiny before the Hillsborough Decision Maker Sarah Green finalises her decisions. This is something we do across all IOPC investigations and we would like to reassure you that this does not have any impact on our investigation.
3. Following a review of the ToRs against the allegations in the complaint reports we have identified some gaps and revised the ToRs to ensure that all complaint allegations are covered.

A copy of the revised ToRs is available on the Hillsborough section of the IOPC website (at www.policeconduct.gov.uk/hillsborough.)

Meetings with police and police-related organisations

Part of our statutory obligation is to keep the above updated on the progress of the Hillsborough Investigation. For example, these include: the police and crime commissioners, chief constables, professional standards departments and police federations. Another organisation we keep updated is the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO).

We have recently held meetings with some of these organisations (remotely via Microsoft Teams) so that we can explain the process of the completion of the final report and in particular the 'Salmon process'. It is important that these meetings have been held and continue to be held so that systems are in place to ensure prompt communications and responses can take place when the 'Salmon process' is underway. This is to guarantee the Hillsborough investigations final report can be completed as soon as is practically possible.

On 19 January 2022, we held a remote meeting with branches of NARPO from within the West Midlands Police (WMP) area. Following the meeting an update was placed on their website, which we did not believe accurately reflected some of the content of the meeting and we believed there was some misunderstanding about some matters. The website content was posted on social media by a concerned Hillsborough complainant and this matter was also raised directly with us.

We addressed any misunderstandings with NARPO, and they promptly agreed to revise the content of their website. We also met remotely with the concerned complainant to provide clarification on what was discussed at the meeting.

Please find attached a link www.policeconduct.gov.uk/hillsborough to an information sheet with some frequently asked questions regarding the Salmon process which we hope will be helpful to you.

The Hillsborough investigations website

As you will be aware from previous updates, we are building a website entirely dedicated to the Hillsborough investigations that will include all of our findings and will feature our final report, which covers the police's actions before, during and after the disaster.

The website will include supporting evidential documents, an image gallery and interactive content, such as maps and timelines to help tell the wider story of our investigations. In addition, the website will include the history of the Hillsborough investigation, along with details of the lessons learned from the investigation.

We will keep you updated on the development of the website.

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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