

## The Hillsborough Investigations Final Report

### What is the final report?

The Hillsborough Investigations final report will provide a comprehensive account of the events surrounding the disaster and will help to address many of the questions remaining about the actions of the police before, during and after the tragedy.

The report will cover all of the investigative work carried out by the IOPC and Operation Resolve, including more than 160 individual complaint and conduct investigations, and the criminal investigations.

Unsurprisingly for investigations that cover such a long period of time and a huge amount of material, the report is significant in both size and scope.

Our aim is to present our findings and all of the work we have carried out in a transparent and accessible way, to allow people to find exactly what they are looking for. To help achieve this, the report will be published online as part of a website dedicated to the Hillsborough investigations.

### What will the report include?

The report will include all of our findings from the investigations and detail whether officers would have had a case to answer for misconduct or gross misconduct, or performance issues raised, had they still been serving at the time of our investigations. The report will also include details of any lessons learned for policing and for future investigations of this nature. It will also provide details about complaints made and (where there was no indication of potential conduct issues) the numbers of those upheld or not upheld.

All of the areas investigated by the IOPC and Operation Resolve will be covered in the report.

IOPC independent investigations:

- alleged amendments to SYP accounts
- allegations that misleading information was passed to the media, MPs, Parliament and the inquiries set up immediately after the disaster
- the actions of police officers after the disaster, including the taking of blood alcohol levels and the undertaking of police national computer checks on the dead and injured

- the role of West Midland Police (WMP) and those who led its investigation
- allegations that family members and campaigners were subject to surveillance after the disaster

Operation Resolve investigations:

- police involvement in the planning and preparation for the game
- police management of fans outside the Leppings Lane terrace and their entry into the stadium
- the early response of the police to the disaster
- police liaison with families of the deceased and the injured in the immediate aftermath of the disaster

The final report will also include an executive summary that will pull together the key points of our findings and the lessons learned during the investigations.

### **When will the report be published?**

Now the trial has concluded, we will complete work on final elements of the individual conduct and complaint reports, and then finalise the overarching report, which has already been drafted.

The final report will need to go through an extensive review process, including legal checks and completion of the Salmon process (also known as Maxwellisation).

In the interim, we will provide regular updates to families, complainants, the media and other interested parties about the progress we are making. When we have a final date for publication, we will announce it in good time.

### **What is the ‘Salmon process’?**

Prior to publication of our final report, the IOPC will follow the ‘Salmon process’ (so called after Lord Justice Salmon who devised it).

This process gives individuals and organisations the opportunity to be made aware of, and respond to (if they so wish), any criticism made in the report, and also prepare them for any exposure when it becomes public knowledge.

The process will involve a significant number of individuals and organisations. We have already planned out the work to help ensure it is completed as quickly as possible.

## **Who decides what the findings are?**

The Director General is the designated decision maker for IOPC investigations but delegates these decisions and determinations.

The Director General has appointed Sarah Green as the Decision Maker for Hillsborough, to oversee and make all final decisions regarding the final report and the complaint and conduct matters.

The decision maker reviews all of the individual reports to finalise determinations about the conduct and complaint matters.

This includes deciding whether a complaint is upheld or not (where there is no indication of potential conduct) or, in the case of conduct matters, determining whether any subject officers would have had a case to answer for conduct or misconduct as a result of their actions, had they still been serving.

## **Why publish an overarching report, rather than just individual ones?**

There are more than 160 individual complaint and conduct reports that make up the Hillsborough investigation.

If we only publish individual reports, this would not provide a full picture of how these investigations were linked, or the emerging themes and learning. We have chosen to produce one overarching report as this is the most accessible and user-friendly option. This will contain details of the individual matters.

Individual complainants and police forces will still receive individual reports.

## **What will the website include and when will this go live?**

The website is currently in its development stage, but we are planning to include:

- supporting evidential documents
- an image gallery
- interactive content, such as maps and timelines
- a digital archive that is easy to search through
- a section covering all the lessons learnt from the investigations carried out
- videos, podcasts and blogs to help tell the story of the investigation