

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Barnes, Sandra; Burrage, Don; Crawley, Brian; Matthews, Elizabeth; Nolan, Andrea; Thompson, Robert; Turpin, Carmel
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Subject: QandAs

Draft Q&As for review.

CC: Abbott, John; Hennessey, Moira; Stone, Karen

Q&As – ER/PR Inquiry**1. Why has government chosen to do a Commission of Inquiry?**

It is of the utmost importance that everyone understand what happened to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

2. How long is this expected to take?

Cabinet will fix a date for the termination of the inquiry and will be in a position to announce further details in the coming days.

3. What role will the affected individuals and families play in the inquiry?

The Commissioner will determine their role and the role of any other person who may be interested once he/she is appointed.

4. In light of the Burin radiologist issue, will this inquiry include a review of this issue?

The intention of the inquiry is to review the ER/PR situation at this time.

5. Do you believe this inquiry will restore confidence in Eastern Health?

It is our hope that this inquiry will provide the answers to questions that have been asked about this situation. We hope this will lead to restored confidence in Eastern Health.

6. Will this inquiry determine who knew what and when, including executive at Eastern Health and previous Ministers of Health?

Yes.

7. Who else will be interviewed as part of the inquiry?

The Commissioner will determine who he/she will need to hear from. Individuals can apply to the Commission to participate in the inquiry.

8. Will they be required to participate in the process?

The Commissioner will have the powers assigned to the Commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act, 2006, including the power to compel evidence.

9. Is there protection for individuals asked to speak to the inquiry in terms of job protection?

Yes. The Public Inquiries Act, 2006 includes whistleblower protection.

10. Will the inquiry include a clinical review of individual cases?

No. That is beyond the scope of the inquiry but may form part of a court decision arising from actions before the court.

11. How will you get to the bottom of this issue without reviewing individual cases, including if people's lives could have been prolonged?

The purpose of the inquiry is to review systemic issues to ensure that the system is operating as it should. The purpose is not to review individual cases. There are other mechanisms available whereby individual cases can be reviewed, including court action or complaints to appropriate professional regulatory bodies.

12. Will the inquiry be open to the public?

Yes.

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