



Successfully navigate the legal and procedural complexities arising out of public inquiries

# Public Inquiries

Wednesday 19 September 2012

Central London



**Chaired by:**

Martin Smith, Field Fisher Waterhouse

**Keynote speaker:**

Sir William Gage

**Expert speakers:**

Jason Beer QC, 5 Essex Court

James Dingemans QC, 3 Hare Court

Rory Phillips QC, 3 Verulam Buildings

Nicholas Griffin QC, 5 Paper Buildings

Peter Skelton, 1 Crown Office Row

Phil Shiner, Public Interest Lawyers

Ashley Underwood QC, 5 Essex Court

Eleanor Grey QC, 39 Essex Street

Danny Friedman, Matrix Chambers

**Attending this timely event will enable you to:**

- Gain an insight from **Sir William Gage** into the **running of a public inquiry**
- Discuss the balance between the need to consider **sensitive material** and making **disclosure**
- Explore the **role of the media** in shaping public understanding
- Understand the processes for **challenging decisions** at all stages of an inquiry
- Tailor your learning with **break out sessions** focusing on the **role of victims** or **tips for organisations**

[www.conferencesandtraining.com/public-inquiries](http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/public-inquiries)

# Public Inquiries

## Why attend this conference?

The number of high-profile inquiries has seen an increase in recent years, culminating this year in the Leveson inquiry into the phone hacking scandal exposed last year. Public inquiries have been launched in a wide range of highly emotive areas and restoring public confidence is a key aim of any inquiry. However, in difficult economic times consideration also has to be given to the significant cost to the public purse, meaning that timetables and processes must be strictly run.

Expertly chaired by **Martin Smith, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP**, and featuring a keynote session by **Sir William Gage, Chairman of the Baha Mousa Inquiry**, this conference will allow you to gain practical insights from our expert panel. Using their vast experience participating in public inquiries they will enable you to successfully unravel the complexities that frequently arise during these proceedings.

## Attending this conference will provide you with the opportunity to answer the following critical questions:

- What implications can a **parallel criminal or regulatory investigation** have on the running of a public inquiry?
- How has **social media** changed the way in which the **public engage** with an inquiry?
- What are the **alternative routes** to a public inquiry and how do you take the public with you?
- Can the **chairman revisit what has happened** after the delivery of the report?

## Hear what delegates at last year's Public Inquiries conference said:

*"An excellent presentation of topical and developing issues in the complex area relating to Public Inquiries."*

Richard Crockford, Kennedys

*"A generous overview by experts of the inquiry process. A high level of real expertise over a number of inquiries forms."*

Christopher Seansey, British Irish Rights Watch

## Pre-Conference Networking

All our delegates will be able to take advantage of our pre-conference online networking. Our system, Leebug, allows you to connect with other delegates, discuss and debate the issues, set up meetings and submit questions for the panels.

## Network with your peers

Past delegates that benefited from last year's Public Inquiries conference include:

- Treasury Solicitors Department
- Ministry of Defence
- Metropolitan Police
- INQUEST
- BBC Trust
- Information Commissioner's Office
- Al-Sweady Inquiry
- Eversheds LLP
- One Crown Office Row
- Bindmans
- Kennedys
- The Royal British Legion
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Competition Commission
- RPC
- The Howard League for Penal Reform
- Department of Finance & Personnel
- Crown Solicitors Office
- No 5 Chambers
- Temple Garden Chambers
- Field Fisher Waterhouse
- The Cabinet Office
- Chambers of Caplin & Brompton
- Hailsham Chambers
- Weightmans LLP
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Berryman's Lace Mawer
- British Irish Rights Watch
- Herbert Smith
- Bates Wells & Braithwaite
- Baker & McKenzie



*"Well attended by the 'who's who' of the inquiry scene. An invaluable experience, where speakers offered practical and technical insights into the law in this area."*

Victoria Oakes, 5 Paper Buildings

# Programme

Wednesday 19 September 2012

08.50 Registration

09.20 **Chair's opening remarks**

[Martin Smith, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP](#)

09.30 **An insight into the workings of an inquiry**

[Sir William Gage](#)

Keynote  
Speech

10.00 **Establishing an inquiry**

- Threshold for establishing an inquiry
- Types of inquiries
- Interaction with inquests
- Justifying and controlling the expense

[Peter Skelton, 1 Crown Office Row](#)

10.45 **Understanding the different roles within an inquiry**

- Terms of appointment of inquiry members
- Transparency of chairman
- Adjusting to the different approaches of chairs
- Benefits of becoming a core participant

[Nicholas Griffin QC, 5 Paper Buildings](#)

11.30 Morning coffee

11.45 **Evidence and Procedure**

- The balance between the need to consider sensitive material and give disclosure
- Warning letters
- Anonymity orders
- Advance sight of the Report by Core Participants
- Publication of the Inquiry Report

[Jason Beer QC, 5 Essex Court](#)

12.30 **Public access and meaningful participation**

- The importance of transparency
- Successful engagement of the public
- The role of the media in shaping public understanding and response
- The role of social media

[Rory Phillips QC, 3 Verulam Buildings](#)

13.15 Lunch

14.15 **Criminal and regulatory parallel investigations**

- Maintaining the integrity of the criminal proceedings
- Giving anonymous evidence
- Lessons to be learnt from the Leveson Inquiry

15.00 **Breakout session A**

**The role of the victim and their families**

- Core participants
- Bereaved families
- Victims
- Media handling and reputation management

[Phil Shiner, Public Interest Lawyers](#)  
[Danny Friedman, Matrix Chambers](#)

15.00 **Breakout session B**

**Tips for organisations engaged in public inquiries**

- Media handling and reputation management
- Avoiding delay and unnecessary costs

[Eleanor Grey QC, 39 Essex Street](#)

15.50 Afternoon tea

16.05 **Challenging decisions**

- Challenging the decision not to set up an inquiry
- Process for making challenges during the inquiry
- Process for making challenges after the inquiry
- The use of judicial review

[James Dingemans QC, 3 Hare Court](#)

16.45 **What happens next**

- Inquiry reports
- Implementation of recommendations
- Can the chairman revisit what has happened?

[Ashley Underwood QC, 5 Essex Court](#)

17.30 Conference close

# Registration

## Public Inquiries

Wednesday 19 September 2012  
Central London

Your priority booking code is:

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\*The early booking discounts are only available when you register by the dates stated below.

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 Disciplinary Tribunals, 10th July 2012  
 Healthcare Professional Regulation, November 2012

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### You can still benefit from the day's event if you can't make it!

Naturally, nothing matches the experience of coming to the conference, but if you really can't make it, you can still benefit by ordering a set of course papers. Available for £250, this will give you a permanent record of the subjects covered, which you can share with your colleagues.

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### Administration

#### VENUE

Central London

#### FEE

Your one-day fee includes attendance, refreshments, lunch and course documentation. Full payment, including VAT must be received prior to the conference. Please post a cheque for the full amount with your completed registration form or tick the payment by credit card box and we will call you to obtain card details. Once payment has been received a VAT invoice/receipt will be issued.

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All bookings will be acknowledged in writing within five working days of receipt and joining instructions (final conference details and a venue location map) will be emailed to delegates approximately two weeks before the event. Please telephone the Bookings Enquiries line immediately:

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- Please call me to discuss my requirements in more detail.

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A refund of fees will be made only for cancellations received in writing at least 14 days before the event (less a 25% cancellation fee to cover administration costs). No refunds will be made for cancellations received within 14 days of the event and failure to attend after confirming a booking will be subject to the same terms. We regret that the transfer of a booking to another event cannot be made but a substitute delegate will be accepted at any time before the event.

This programme is correct at the time of going to press. However, we reserve the right to alter or cancel the programme due to circumstances beyond our control.

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