

## Stakeholder Update

### July 2025

#### Further outcomes letters sent

We have sent out further outcome letters this week relating to more than 40 complaints and conduct matters which we investigated regarding the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath.

Complainants and subject officers were notified about the majority of our decisions in March when we sent out more than 400 letters. Our investigations are now nearing completion, with four complaints and conduct matters to be finalised in the next couple of months.

#### Publication of the IOPC Hillsborough investigations' report

We have received feedback from a number of people who have expressed concerns about our proposed report and the significant amount of material relating to our investigations that we were intending to publish.

Over the last few months, we have been reflecting on this and completely understand the concern that anything we publish could undermine the Hillsborough Independent Panel (HIP) report and the conclusions of the Goldring Inquests, and that this content could cause further distress to families and survivors. It is also vitally important that we are transparent about our work, the evidence that we have examined and how this has informed the opinions we have reached.

Following careful consideration, and taking on board these views, we have decided to publish a more focused report of around 400 pages. This will include an executive summary and chapters aligned to our investigations' terms of reference, with more detail on what we investigated together with our decisions.

Our aim is for this report to be more succinct and accessible, allowing the key outcomes of our investigations to be understood easily. It will include a small selection of images which have been thoroughly and carefully reviewed for sensitive content. Our ambition is to publish the report by the end of the year on the main IOPC website.

If family members or complainants are mentioned in the report, a letter will be sent to them giving them an opportunity to review extracts of the report where they are referenced (This is separate to the naming process we carried out in 2023).

We are acutely aware that the report will be difficult reading and we hope this will go some way to reducing the impact of the publication as far as possible. If family members have told us that they do not want their loved ones to be named in the report, we will not do so.

## Hillsborough archive

We have been custodians of the Hillsborough archive for more than a decade, since South Yorkshire Police transferred control of all their material to us to assist with our investigations.

As part of our long-standing investigations, we also received large collections of material relating to the disaster from Liverpool Record Office (LRO), The National Archives (TNA), the Home Office and Sheffield Archives. Records were also received from the South Yorkshire Coroner, Liverpool Council, Sheffield Council, West Midlands Police, and many others.

As our investigations are now coming to an end, our dedicated Legacy team has been preparing for the return of this material. This is in line with one of the recommendations of the HIP, for the materials to be permanently returned to Sheffield Archives, LRO, and to the TNA at Kew.

The first return of material is planned to take place at the end of August to the LRO and the rest will follow to their respective homes. This will include the longer Hillsborough investigations' report and material that we planned to publish. This will be available next year via the TNA for anyone who would like more detail on our investigations. The individual complaint and conduct matter reports will also be transferred to the TNA.

If you have any questions around the archiving process, please email [hillsborough@policeconduct.gov.uk](mailto:hillsborough@policeconduct.gov.uk). For information relating to the LRO return or how to access the material, please email [archives@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:archives@liverpool.gov.uk)

## Hillsborough team update

Mel Palmer joined the Hillsborough team as Deputy Director of Investigations in April 2025. She has been supporting the decision making in the final stages of our investigations, as well as ensuring our findings and decisions are accurately reflected in our report. Mel has been with the IOPC since 2004 and has spent most of her career investigating, overseeing and acting as decision maker on serious and sensitive cases.

To find out more about our work or to request this document 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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