

Stakeholder Update

October 2025

Publication of the IOPC Hillsborough investigations' report

We intend to publish the report of the IOPC and Operation Resolve investigations into the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath in November 2025. We will confirm the exact publication date soon, but we expect it to be at the end of November.

In our July stakeholder update, we explained that having reflected on concerns raised about our approach to this report and publication of a significant amount of material relating to our investigations, we had decided to publish a more focused report of around 400 pages. This report brings together the key findings of our work, a summary of the outcomes of the complaints we considered and the key evidence we used to inform those decisions. These outcomes have already been shared in the individual outcome letters we provided and the updates we sent to family members (as Interested Persons in our investigations) in April and July 2025.

We have offered reassurance to stakeholders that these findings align with, and do not undermine, the Hillsborough Independent Panel (HIP) and the Goldring Inquests conclusions, specifically in regard to the actions of South Yorkshire Police. Like the HIP Report and the Inquests, we found no evidence to support police accounts to the media, the Taylor Inquiry and both sets of Inquests, which suggested that the behaviour of supporters caused or in any way contributed to the disaster.

The report includes an executive summary and chapters which are aligned to the terms of reference for these investigations, which focused on police actions. Our aim is for the report to be succinct and accessible, allowing key outcomes of our investigations to be easily understood. It will include a small selection of images which have been thoroughly and carefully reviewed for sensitive content.

Receiving the report in advance

We understand that reading about the events surrounding the Hillsborough disaster can be difficult and may have a significant impact on people. We also understand that some stakeholders may not want to read or receive the report.

We want to ensure that those who do wish to receive the report have time to do so before it is made available to others. We therefore intend to share it with some stakeholders at least one day before publication.

When we share the report with stakeholders, we will ask that this is not shared with other people or elsewhere so that every family member has the same opportunity to see it before it is published.

Receiving a printed copy of the report

In line with our families first principle, a printed copy of the report will be available to family members that we write to.

Others receiving the advance copy of the report

We will also be sharing an advance copy of the report in confidence with complainants, the South Yorkshire Police, West Midlands Police, Cheshire Constabulary and Merseyside Police Appropriate Authorities, officers involved in our investigations, and the Metro Mayors for Liverpool, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

We will share the advance copy of the report with some members of the media, after it has been shared with families. This will be shared under embargo which prevents them releasing the information in the report before we publish it.

Feedback and support

We have encouraged all stakeholders who we write to, to contact us if they have any questions about our approach, our report or the outcomes we have already sent.

We know that reading about the disaster will be distressing, and we expect there will be media and social media coverage of our investigations, which we know may have an impact on people and their wellbeing.

We know that it is important for people to seek the support that is best for them during this time and have asked them to let us know if there is anything we can do in our communications to make this time easier.

We will next be in touch with our stakeholders at the start of November with more details about the date and arrangements for the publication of the report.

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:

Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)

Hillsborough PO Box 1245 Warrington WA1 9FW

Tel: 0161 246 8503

Email: hillsborough@policeconduct.gov.uk

Website: www.policeconduct.gov.uk

We welcome telephone calls in Welsh

Rydym yn croesawu galwadau ffôn yn y Gymraeg

Published October 2025

© IOPC 2025



This is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0
except where otherwise stated.

This does not include material belonging to third parties.

Authorisation to use such material must be obtained from the copyright holders concerned.