



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY  
RELATING TO  
AFGHANISTAN

# Financial Report

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

# Background

On 15 December 2022, the Government established an independent statutory inquiry to investigate matters arising from the deployment of British Special Forces to Afghanistan between mid-2010 and mid-2013. Lord Justice Sir Charles Haddon-Cave chairs the Inquiry.

For reasons of national security, the Inquiry has held numerous CLOSED hearings where it has heard evidence from UK Special Forces and associated witnesses. Whenever possible, the Inquiry has posted gists of these hearings on its website in accordance with its commitment to openness and transparency.

In addition, the Inquiry has been able to hold 14 days of OPEN hearings and has heard evidence from other relevant witnesses in relation to its Terms of Reference.

Topics covered have included Deliberate Detention

Operations, the computer server known as “ITS1”, as well as the Corporate Witness statements from the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Military Police.

We urge anyone who has got any information or material they think may be relevant to please get in touch as soon as possible.

The Secretary of State for Defence has formally granted authorisation to all personnel to disclose potentially relevant material to the Inquiry. We recognise you may be concerned about the implications of coming forward – please read our [Get in Touch](#) page for more details on the systems and dispensations in place to support you.

# Note on financial figures

These figures are intended to give an overview of the level and elements of expenditure over the course of the Inquiry's work. Every attempt has been made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate.

The figures are not the equivalent of company accounts. However, further financial information about the Inquiry can be obtained from the relevant financial reports from the Ministry of Defence as the Inquiry's sponsor department. The Inquiry has followed the sponsor department's guidance on VAT treatment.

If errors are discovered after publication, the Inquiry will republish a corrected version.

The financial year runs from April to March.

These figures are intended to show when the work that was charged for was carried out. In some cases, this will be different to when the invoice was raised or when the amount was paid to the supplier.

For any queries about this report, please email:  
[enquiries@iaa.independent-inquiry.uk](mailto:enquiries@iaa.independent-inquiry.uk)

# Explanation of financial categories

**Salaries and professional fees:** This section lists the salaries of employed civil servants, the majority of whom comprise the Inquiry Secretariat; the Solicitor legal team to the Inquiry, as well as the professional fees of Counsel, specialist advisers and expert witnesses.

Professional fees may also include costs other than the salary of an individual, such as support staff and chambers' fees.

**Hearings:** This section shows all fees related to venue hire, audio visual services, transcription, translation and other services related to holding hearings. These costs cover both OPEN and CLOSED hearings and include relevant travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

**Core participant legal fees:** This section shows the costs of legal representatives for the Afghan families whose fees are paid by the Inquiry under the Costs Protocol relating to legal representation

at public expense. The Ministry of Defence and Royal Military Police, as the other Core Participants are funding their own costs.

**Other costs:** This shows other costs to the Inquiry, including:

- Website design, build, development, translation, maintenance and hosting costs
- Travel, including international visits to the International Criminal Court and NATO
- The cost of specialist software, software platforms and IT
- Stationery and office equipment costs
- Media subscriptions
- Non-hearing related expenses paid to Inquiry staff and witnesses.

# Financial Year 2023-4

<b>Salaries and professional fees</b>	
Secretariat	£1,038,673
Solicitors	£814,752
Counsel	£2,689,562
Advisers and Expert Witnesses	£216,200
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£4,759,187</b>
<b>Hearings</b>	<b>£189,411</b>
<b>Core participants legal fees</b>	<b>£272,463</b>
<b>Other costs</b>	<b>£81,252.50*</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£5,302,314</b>

## Note on Financial Year 2022-3

The Inquiry was announced on 15 December 2022. From this date to 31 March 2023 expenditure totalled £1,120,247.

*\*To note, this Financial Statement was republished on X December 2025 to correct an omission for website build costs which totalled £67,117.50, and is reflected in the 'Other Costs' category. This was paid in the subsequent Financial Year.*

To learn more about  
the Inquiry, visit:

[www.iaa.independent-inquiry.uk](http://www.iaa.independent-inquiry.uk)



Centre: Inquiry Chair, Lord Justice Sir Charles Haddon-Cave. From left to right: Jonathan Polnay KC, Senior Counsel; Kerry Broome, Senior Counsel; Mark Newman, Secretary to the Inquiry; Oliver Glasgow KC, Lead Counsel.