

THE CRANSTON INQUIRY

The Cranston Inquiry
End of Financial Year Report
2024 - 2025

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Overview

The information in this report sets out the expenditure for The Cranston Inquiry (the “Inquiry”) for the financial year 2024-2025.

The Inquiry is an independent non-statutory inquiry into the event on 24 November 2021 when at least 27 people lost their lives while attempting to cross the Channel from France to the UK. The Secretary of State for Transport announced that there would be a non-statutory inquiry into this event on 9 November 2023.

The Inquiry will look into who the deceased were, and when, where and in what circumstances they came by their deaths. It will also consider what lessons can be learned and, if appropriate, make recommendations to reduce the risk of a similar event occurring.

Notes on financial figures

The figures in this report have not been compiled by professional accountants and are only intended to provide an overview of the level of expenditure over a financial year.

Every attempt has been made to ensure the figures are as accurate as possible, as of May 2025.

All figures exclude VAT.

The figures attempt to show when the costs were incurred, and when the goods and services were received. In some cases, this will be different to when the invoice was raised or when the amount was paid to the supplier.

Further financial information about the Inquiry's finances during its term can be obtained from the financial reports for the Department for Transport (DfT) – the sponsoring department for the Inquiry.

The figures in this report may differ from records published by DfT, which works on an accruals basis for calculations. We expect that when the whole life costs of the Inquiry are analysed, the total expenditure will be the same, but whilst the Inquiry is ongoing, certain amounts may be recorded in different financial quarters and years.

For any queries about this document, please contact info@cranston.independent-inquiry.uk.

Explanation of financial categories

1. Inquiry staffing

This category includes the salaries of employed civil servants (the Secretariat), and the cost of any temporary staff contracted directly by the Inquiry.

2. Legal costs

Remuneration for the Chair and professional fees for Counsel and solicitors. This also includes costs of additional legal support staff and chambers' fees.

3. Full Participants and witness costs

The Inquiry provides funding for the solicitors and Counsel to represent Full Participants in accordance with the [Funding Protocol](#). Where an eligible person does not have a recognised legal representative, the Chair has discretion to award incidental expenses where in the opinion of the Chair it is reasonable and proportionate for the expenses to be incurred in order that the eligible person may participate in the Inquiry.

All claims are scrutinised by the Solicitor to the Inquiry to ensure that they are appropriate under the Protocol.

This report includes funding awarded to Full Participants over the course of the financial year, with backdated payments being made in Q4.

4. Hearing costs

This category lists all fees related to venue hire, audio visual services, translations, witness support services, and other services related to holding hearings.

The Inquiry held its public Full Hearings in March 2025 and costs associated are included in this report.

5. Running costs, including accommodation and IT

This category includes day-to-day running costs for the Inquiry, including but not limited to accommodation rent, IT software for evidence management, strategic communications and media monitoring, IT and office equipment, and travel and subsistence costs for the Secretariat, legal team, and Chair.

6. Expert advisers and specialist services

The category includes the cost of experts or specialist services acquired which has been determined to be of value to the Inquiry.

7. Other

This category includes any additional costs that fall out of the categories listed above.

The report includes meetings hosted by the Inquiry with the families of the victims and the survivors, in Q1 and Q3.

Financial Year 2024-2025

Category	Cost
Inquiry staffing	£ 783,284.00
Legal costs	£ 1,935,809.61
Full Participants and witness costs	£ 770,223.89
Hearing costs	£ 376,672.05
Running costs, including accommodation and IT	£ 871,613.17
Expert advisers and specialist services	£ 33,345.25
Other	£ 22,874.90
Total	£ 4,793,822.87