

MANCHESTER ARENA INQUIRY

INVESTIGATION TIMELINE



2017

MAY The Manchester Arena terror attack kills 22 people after extremist Salman Abedi detonates an improvised explosive device in the City Room of the venue.

2019

OCTOBER Home Secretary, Priti Patel, announces an independent public inquiry into the Manchester Arena Attack. She appoints High Court judge Sir John Saunders as the chair of the Inquiry.

MARCH Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Inquiry is postponed until September and preliminary hearings are to be held remotely.

SEPTEMBER The Manchester Arena Inquiry begins with oral evidence. Families of the 22 victims give commemorative hearings as a tribute to their loved ones.

OCTOBER Chapter 7 hearings. Evidence is given relating to the Manchester Arena complex and security arrangements.

2020

JANUARY The last preliminary hearing is heard and a start date for the Inquiry is set for 15 June 2020.

JUNE The Inquiry launch a witness information appeal to members of the public, emergency responders and others who were present at the Arena on 22 May 2017.

SEPTEMBER Chapter 6: Overview. Evidence is heard setting out the chronology of important events.

NOVEMBER Chapter 8 hearings. Evidence is heard considering the planning and preparation for the attack.

2021



JANUARY Sir John Saunders pauses hearings due to further lockdowns and restrictions.

JUNE Volume One of John Saunders' report is published on the security arrangements in place at the Manchester Arena. It finds:

"There were serious shortcomings in the security provided by those organisations which had responsibility for it and also failings and mistakes by some individuals."

– Sir John Saunders, Chairman of the Manchester Arena Inquiry

OCTOBER Chapter 13 hearings commence covering the background and radicalisation of Salman Abedi.

Chapter 14 hearings commence covering preventability in a closed session.

FEBRUARY Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Inquiry agree to sit for two and a half days per week to hear evidence relating to Chapter 10, the emergency service response to the attack. This evidence continues until July as restrictions relax.

SEPTEMBER Inquiry hearings resume following a summer break. Chapter 10 is concluded followed by Chapter 11, evidence covering the detonation of the bomb and its effect.

Chapter 12 is then heard relating to evidence covering the experience of each of the 22 victims.

DECEMBER The Inquiry hears expert medical evidence regarding Saffie-Rose Roussos, including the cause of her death and addressing the question of whether her injuries may have been survivable with earlier medical intervention.

Chapters 9-12 hear closing submissions.

2022

JANUARY Inquiry hearings resume following the Christmas break.

The Inquiry announces it does not plan to hear any further evidence before the publication of the Chairman's Volume 2 and Volume 3 reports.

NOVEMBER Volume 2: Emergency Response report is released. It examines the emergency response following the attack.

"I am highly critical of the rescue operation. Those criticisms must not overshadow our admiration for the courage of those who went into the City Room without any hesitation to help the dying and the injured."

– Sir John Saunders, Chairman of the Manchester Arena Inquiry

2023

MARCH Volume 3: Radicalisation and Preventability is published. It examines the evidence heard by the Chairman on the radicalisation of Salman Abedi, the planning and preparation of the attack and whether the attack could have been prevented.

"There was a realistic possibility that actionable intelligence could have been obtained which might have led to actions preventing the attack."

– Sir John Saunders, Chairman of the Manchester Arena Inquiry