

Suspension of the timetable for closing submissions

Decision by the Chair

5 November 2024

The deputy first minister (DFM) is considering whether to extend the terms of reference of the Inquiry. All core participants have now sought suspension of, or indicated that they cannot comply with, the current timetable for closing submissions. They contend that the additional evidence produced by any extension of the terms of reference would inevitably inform the analysis of the evidence to date. It would be necessary to analyse all the evidence through the perspective of the new terms of reference. They submit that fairness requires that the timetable for submissions should be suspended until the DFM has made her decision.

I am persuaded by the unanimous submission of the core participants that it is reasonable to suspend the timetable until the DFM has made her decision.

Accordingly, I shall suspend the timetable for submissions meantime. The Inquiry will put in place a revised timetable for submissions for the eventuality that the decision does not lead to an extension of the terms of reference.

Lord Bracadale

5 November 2024