

Manston Inquiry

NOTE ON BEHALF OF THE HOME OFFICE: PRELIMINARY HEARING 15 JANUARY 2026

Introduction

1. The Home Office is committed to assisting the Inquiry carry out its work and report its findings as quickly and effectively as possible, in fulfilment of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. The Home Office is continuing its work to ensure that the Inquiry is provided with the relevant documentary material held by the Department, to comply with the Inquiry's further requests and queries, and to provide witness statements from relevant Home Office witnesses.

Provisional List of Issues

2. The Home Office has reviewed the provisional list of issues provided by the Inquiry and is content that, at this stage, the list sets out a comprehensive summary of the key issues that fall within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. The Home Office will seek to assist the Inquiry in keeping the list under review as the Inquiry's work develops.

Timetable

3. The Home Office welcomes the Chair's proposal to commence hearings in autumn 2026, and the Chair's specific consideration of starting at the beginning of September. The Home Office will endeavour to assist the Inquiry to ensure that this timetable can be achieved.

Preliminary Hearing on 15 January 2026

4. The Home Office does not seek to make oral submission at the preliminary hearing.

LOUIS MABLY KC

13 January 2026