

The Manston Inquiry Financial Report

Overview

This document sets out the expenditure of The Manston Inquiry from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, the full financial year. During this period, the inquiry:

- Established itself, including recruiting the Secretariat, Inquiry Legal Team and the Inquiry Counsel Team.
- Procured all systems required to support the Inquiry.
- Secured from the Home Office approval for the Inquiry to hold hearings.
- Expanded the Inquiry's Terms of Reference to include the broad issues that an Inquest into the death of Mr Ahmed would investigate.
- Commenced Phase 1 and 2 of the Inquiry's work, including inward disclosure of c.55,000 documents and outward disclosure to Inquiry Participants.
- Commenced the work of requesting, receiving and reviewing witness statements from a significant number of individuals.
- Allocated Inquiry Participants status to 18 participants. This includes 6 separate cohorts of individual Inquiry Participants (comprising 171 individuals) who were detained at Manston.
- Held its first preliminary hearing in January 2026.

The total expenditure for the full financial year 2025-2026 is **£2.768m** with the breakdown in the table below.

Category	£'000
Chair's fees	129
Secretariat salaries	372
Inquiry legal team	1,714
Counsel costs	175
Additional IT costs	4
Psychological support and safeguarding	2
Document Management	214
Office/ other rent costs	119
Other accommodation costs	1
Audio-visual & associated costs	10
Stakeholder engagement, communications & associated projects	8

Website costs	7
Expenses	8
Other	5

Notes on financial figures

The Inquiry team has worked to ensure the figures presented are accurate as of 31 March 2026 to give an overview of the Inquiry's expenditure. However, these figures have not been compiled by accountants and are not intended to be equivalent to company accounts.

All figures are in thousands of pounds and include VAT, where applicable.

Background information relating to the expenditure categories can be found on pages 2 to 4 of this report. Further information about the work of the Inquiry can be found on our website. If you have any queries about this document, please contact info@manston.independent-inquiry.uk

Background information

Chair's fees

The Chair of The Manston Inquiry, Sophie Cartwright KC, was appointed to the role by the Home Secretary on 17 March 2025. This cost relates to the amount paid to the Chair during the current financial year.

Secretariat salaries

The Inquiry Secretariat team is led by the Secretary to the Inquiry, Katherine Yesilirmak. The team are responsible for supporting the Chair in running and coordinating the Inquiry's operations and governance.

Inquiry legal team

The Inquiry legal team is led by Alastair Tidball, Solicitor to the Inquiry, and comprises of a team from the Government Legal Department. DWF have also been contracted to provide specific legal services.

Counsel costs

The Chair is supported by a team of counsel. During this financial year, the Inquiry appointed a team of counsel, comprising:

- Clair Dobbin KC (Lead Counsel)
- Dr Rowena Moffat (Counsel)

- Miranda Butler (Counsel)
- Reka Hollos (Counsel)
- Michael Harwood (Junior Counsel)
- Louise McCormack (Junior Junior Counsel)
- Rossen Roussanov (Junior Junior Counsel)

Additional IT costs

IT costs beyond basic setup (i.e. laptops and standard software such as MS Office or Google Workspace) include items such as monitors and IT accessories, including keyboards, mouse devices, and headsets.

Psychological support and safeguarding

This relates to the provision of emotional support services to victims and witnesses engaging with the Inquiry.

Document Management

This relates to the costs of the evidence management system, including associated software.

Office/ other rent costs

These costs relate to rent, utilities, maintenance and associated service charges required to support the operation of the Inquiry's offices.

Other accommodation costs

These costs relate to the provision of ushering service provided during the preliminary hearing.

Audio-visual & associated costs

These costs relate to provision of audio-visual and technical services for the preliminary hearing.

Stakeholder engagement, communications & associated projects

This refers to the provision of communication support to the Inquiry. Services included responding to press queries, supervision of journalists attending the preliminary hearing and other media support services to the Inquiry.

Website costs

Website costs relate to the hosting, design and ongoing maintenance of the Inquiry's website.

Expenses

These costs relate to accommodation, travel, and subsistence for the Chair, Secretariat, legal team, and Counsel in connection with Inquiry related activities.

Other

These costs consist of miscellaneous expenditure, including translation costs, office supplies and postage fees.