

## **Transcript of Chair’s video statement – 2 June 2026**

Hello and welcome.

I am Lord Scott, Chair of the Emma Caldwell Public Inquiry.

As I made clear in my message at the end of last year, I want the work of this Inquiry to be as open and transparent as possible. As part of that, it’s important that I keep you updated on developments.

It’s been six months since my team and I formally began our work and we’ve made progress in a number of key areas.

I am conscious, as I said previously, that this Inquiry began at the end of a process that had already taken far too long for Emma’s family and all those affected by her murder.

I want to assure everyone that we are moving forward with determination and purpose.

## **Evidence**

Following the formal setting up of the Inquiry on 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2025, the Inquiry team started to engage with Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to request that they provide the Inquiry with documentation they hold relating to the terms of reference. You can read the terms of reference on our website.

The Inquiry has already ingathered a significant volume of evidence and this process will continue until we have everything we need to carry out as thorough an investigation as possible.

In addition to the documentation the Inquiry has recovered from Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, a number of individuals have been in touch with the Inquiry to provide us with evidence they hold and to ask how they can assist in the work of the Inquiry.

I would continue to encourage anyone who has information relevant to the terms of reference to please get in touch with my team.

Meanwhile, my team has also begun the process of analysing the evidence and identifying witnesses from whom we will take statements. This investigation and statement-taking process is necessary before the inquiry can hold public hearings.

It is not possible at this stage to say when these hearings will take place. We must first carry out our initial investigation and consider all of the evidence we have received.

Once we are able to do so, we will provide information on the timeline for hearings and how members of the public will be able to attend.

Hearings will also be streamed on our YouTube channel and on the Inquiry website so that everyone can access proceedings.

### **Core participants**

In January, after careful consideration of each application, we published the names of those granted core participant status so far. As the investigation develops, it is, of course, possible that more core participants will be designated.

We also published a number of legal protocols outlining in detail how core participants can participate in the Inquiry and how my team and I will engage with them.

It is vital to the work of the Inquiry that collaborative and constructive relationships are developed and maintained with all core participants and I am encouraged by the positive engagement so far. The Inquiry has published an engagement protocol, that can be found on the website, which sets out how the Inquiry will engage with core participants and their legal representatives.

I issued an invitation to all core participants to meet with them. Meetings have taken place with those who wished to take up that opportunity.

I also met recently with legal representatives of core participants to set out how I expect the Inquiry to run and how they can best assist us in our work on behalf of the core participants they represent.

My legal team has offered all legal representatives regular meetings to ensure they and their clients are kept up to date on the work of the Inquiry.

I am determined that this investigation will be conducted in a timely and cost-effective manner, providing answers as quickly as practicable, and I know that legal representatives will do everything in their power to support the Inquiry in this approach.

### **Inquiry location**

Finally, I'd like to update you on where the hearings for the Inquiry will take place.

I can now confirm that the Inquiry has leased premises for our hearing suite and offices in the Optima building, which is in Robertson Street, in Glasgow city centre, just a short distance from Central Station.

Looking at all relevant factors, including where Emma's family, other core participants and likely witnesses live, I considered it important that the Inquiry is based in Glasgow when it comes to the public hearings. We hope the fit-out of the building will be completed by the end of this year.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide further updates via our website to ensure that everyone is kept informed of the progress being made.

Thank you.