

MEDIA RELEASE

The logo for the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry, featuring the words "SHEKU BAYOH INQUIRY" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, stacked vertically on a dark purple square background.

30 APRIL 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEKU BAYOH INQUIRY PROGRESSING WITH FOCUS AND DETERMINATION

The independent public inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh is moving forward with focus and determination, its Chair has said.

Speaking in a video message five months after the opening of the Inquiry, Lord Bracadale gave an update on progress and outlined the approach to be taken in the months to come.

He also gave details of the framework document that will act as a roadmap for the Inquiry's investigation.

The statement, which can be viewed and read on the Inquiry website, highlighted the importance of collaboration with core participants and told of constructive meetings with their representatives.

Mr Bayoh died in May 2015 after an incident in the street in Kirkcaldy involving officers of Police Scotland.

The Inquiry opened on 30 November 2020, having been announced earlier by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

The video update provided information on the evidence gathering process and referred to the developing role of Inquiry assessors Raju Bhatt and Michael Fuller. Lord Bracadale also confirmed that public hearings will be held at Capital House in central Edinburgh. It is not possible at present to say when the hearings will take place.

Further updates on arrangements for the hearings, including how members of the public can attend, will be published on the website in due course. The hearings will be streamed on the website and Inquiry YouTube channel.

In the video message Lord Bracadale said: “I am acutely aware that almost six years have passed since the death of Sheku Bayoh and, consequently, a lengthy period of time has elapsed without his family receiving answers to fundamental questions.

“I want to assure them, and all who have interest in the Inquiry, that we are moving forward with focus and determination.”

Commenting on co-operation with core participants, he added: “I am confident that working in this collaborative way will ensure that everyone involved will have the opportunity to engage with the work of the Inquiry.”

Lord Bracadale described how work is already under way on the framework document, which will work through the terms of reference of the Inquiry in detailed chapters, including the cause of death, post-incident management, liaison with the family and race.

The framework is being developed from evidence gathered with input from core participants and the assessors.

“This framework will act as a roadmap for the Inquiry’s investigation,” said Lord Bracadale.

“It will continue to evolve and be modified as more evidence is collated.

“I consider that this phase of the Inquiry is vitally important. It lays the foundation for later stages, including public hearings.”

Meanwhile, Lord Bracadale reiterated his earlier call for those who believe they have information relevant to the Inquiry to make contact via the website.

ENDS

Media enquiries should be directed to the Inquiry media manager, Marianne Taylor.
Email: media@shekubayohinquiry.scot

Notes to editors

1. To watch Lord Bracadale’s update go to the Inquiry website www.shekubayohinquiry.scot. From there you will be taken to the Inquiry’s YouTube channel. A full transcript is also available on the website.
2. Please note, Lord Bracadale will not be undertaking any interviews.
3. For more information on core participants, assessors and the terms of reference, go to the FAQ section of the website.