



The Dr Giraldi Home Inquiry
Gibraltar

Chairman: The Rt. Hon. Sir Jonathan Parker

PRESS RELEASE

PARKER INQUIRY REPORT DELIVERED

The Chairman of the Dr Giraldi Home Inquiry, the Rt. Hon Sir Jonathan Parker has delivered his Report to the Government.

As will be recalled the Terms of Reference of the Dr Giraldi Home Inquiry were:

- “1. To inquire into:
 - a. allegations of mismanagement, misconduct and malpractice (including abuse) at the Dr Giraldi Home contained in witness statements intended to be relied on by Ms Joanna Hernandez in connection with her claim of unfair dismissal by the Social Services Agency; and
 - b. the conduct of the relevant authorities and agencies in response to or otherwise in relation to such allegations.
2. to inquire into such other matters relating to the Dr Giraldi Home as the Chairman of the Inquiry shall, in his absolute discretion, consider appropriate.
3. to find the relevant facts.
4. to report on the above.”

The Inquiry identified and investigated 22 Issues under its Terms of Reference. Those issues covered a broad number of areas including staffing, physical facilities at the Home, care of residents, allegations of abuse of residents and the conduct and response of the relevant authorities and agencies, the Attorney General and Ministers. These Issues were arrived at following public consultation and an opportunity for legal representatives of various parties to make submissions at preliminary hearings of the Inquiry.

The Inquiry undertook a very significant review of documents obtained from departmental sources and other authorities and agencies. In total approximately 61,000 pages of documents were uploaded onto an electronic platform to aid the Inquiry's work. From among those documents a Core Bundle was produced to facilitate the evidential hearings of the Inquiry. Legal representatives of Inquiry participants were provided access to the Core Bundle and part of the electronic platform to assist their participation at the hearings.

Numerous potential witnesses were contacted which led to a total of 63 witnesses giving oral evidence at the main hearings of the Inquiry. Following those evidential hearings the Inquiry heard submissions from legal representatives. All hearings of the Inquiry were held in public.

At the conclusion of those hearings the Chairman indicated that he would commence work towards the preparation of a draft Report but that parties who faced intended adverse criticism would be provided an opportunity to make representations in respect of extracts of the draft Report. In September 2014 relevant parties were invited to make representations on specific extracts. Representations were received by the end of November 2014. The Chairman has considered these in the process of finalising his Report.

In accordance with his Terms of Reference and the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act his Report has now been delivered to the Government.

The Inquiry Chairman is grateful for the assistance provided by witnesses, legal representatives of various parties and participants themselves in the work of the Inquiry.

29 January 2015