

**Chairman:** Dame Deirdre Hine DBE FFPHM FRCP

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Issue date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

### **THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE OUTBREAK OF CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE IN NORTHERN HSC TRUST HOSPITALS MOVES TO SECOND STAGE**

The Inquiry Panel has held a series of eight group meetings with some of those patients, relatives of patients and staff, directly affected by the outbreak of C.diff in eight venues across the relevant Trust area. So far 139 people have participated in this second “information gathering” phase of the Panel’s work.

Commenting on the progress to date Chairman of the Inquiry panel, Dame Deirdre Hine said:

“I wish to thank all those who took the time to attend these events and for the very valuable contributions which were made. The information gathered at these meetings will allow the Inquiry team to identify those areas that require close scrutiny by the Panel.

“We will move to the third stage, which will involve the taking of formal written evidence from witnesses by the Solicitor to the Inquiry, in the New Year.

“Guidance on the support available for the giving of formal evidence will be provided to those asked to participate at this stage.

“A fourth stage, in which oral evidence is received formally from witnesses, may be required and this will take place following completion of witness statements”.

Anyone who was affected by this outbreak can still participate in the Panel’s information gathering process by writing to or phoning the Inquiry office, or, completing questionnaires on paper or online at the Inquiry website.

The C. diff Inquiry Panel will continue to provide updates at significant stages of its work, through communications with participants, its web site ([www.cdiffinquiry.org](http://www.cdiffinquiry.org)) and press information.

The Inquiry can be contacted by calling Kate McClements on 028 90 517124 or email: [inquiry@cdiffinquiry.org](mailto:inquiry@cdiffinquiry.org)

**Ends**

**For further media information please contact:**

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