

Southport Inquiry

MEDIA BROADCAST PROTOCOL: HEARINGS ON 8 AND 9 JULY 2025

1. This Protocol relates to:
 - a. The provision of a Live-Link (not for broadcast and not for onward disclosure) to enable named accredited media to follow the Inquiry hearings remotely, where the Chair has decided that such a link should be permitted for any part of the inquiry hearings under s.18(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005. (**‘the Live Link’**)
 - b. the broadcast of clips of video footage of Inquiry hearings (**‘broadcasting clips’**) where the Chair has decided that broadcasting of any part of the inquiry hearings will be permitted under s.18(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005.

The provision of the Live Link and of broadcasting clips will be granted subject to the terms of this Protocol and any other orders made by the Chair under section 18(2) and/or 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005. This Protocol should be read in conjunction with the Chair's Ruling on livestreaming / broadcasting dated 1 July 2025.

Access to the Live-Link

2. Where the Chair has determined that he will permit accredited media organisations to have access to the hearings via the Live Link, media organisations (including individual freelance journalists) must make a written application to view proceedings via the Live-Link. The written application must be submitted to PressEnquiries@southport.public-inquiry.uk
3. The application must set out:
 - i. the name of the media organisation and its named journalists (or the name of the individual freelance journalist) who wish to receive the Live Link;
 - ii. confirmation that all named journalists are resident in the United Kingdom;
 - iii. confirmation that each named journalist will sign and return to the Inquiry a copy of the Written Confirmation appended to this Protocol, confirming notice and acceptance of its terms.
4. Applications must be made in advance of the start of the Inquiry hearings and, for the July hearings, by no later than **4pm on 7 July 2025**. Late applications

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from medial organisations and/or freelance journalists will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

5. The Live Link will be provided only to the named applicant journalists who have successfully applied for access and returned to the Inquiry a signed Written Confirmation confirming they understand and will comply with this Protocol and are aware of relevant restrictions on reporting that may apply. Those who make a successful application will be treated as 'accredited media'. The Live Link must not be shared with others.
6. The Inquiry must be notified at least 24 hours in advance of any change to the name of an applicant journalist for an accredited media organisation that wishes to receive the Live Link. Any new applicant journalist must return a signed Written Confirmation and confirm they are resident in the UK before they will be provided with the Live Link.
7. Under no circumstances may any person in any way, whether by video or audio recording or screenshots or photographs of a screen, record the Live Link, unless expressly authorised by the Inquiry to do so.
8. Live tweeting / similar: any reporting of the inquiry hearings must be delayed by **10 minutes** after the words spoken or the evidence giving in the hearings, in order to allow for the protection of sensitive information including but not limited to the identity of those protected by anonymity and other protective measures.

Broadcasting Clips

9. In accordance with the Chair's Ruling on broadcasting, none of the commemorative or impact evidence will be broadcast.
10. The Opening Statement on 8 July 2025 will be broadcast. The accredited media organisations who make a successful application for access to the Live Link can, on request, receive access to a separate broadcast-quality feed from RTS ("the Broadcast-Quality feed").
11. Accredited media organisations in receipt of the Broadcast-Quality feed have the permission of the Inquiry to record that feed for the purpose of editing and broadcasting clips from that transmission to audiences, but subject to the conditions set out below:

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- i. all broadcasts must adhere to any restriction orders or notices made under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005, and any reporting restrictions imposed by the Crown Court;
 - ii. all broadcasts must comply with the conditions ordered by the Chair pursuant to s18(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005 and in this Protocol;
 - iii. all broadcasts must comply with, and not circumvent, any orders made by the Chair granting a witness special measures;
 - iv. the broadcast of clips must constitute or be a part of a fair and accurate report of Inquiry proceedings;
 - v. the broadcast of clips must only be used for news, current affairs and factual programming or in the news sections of websites. They must not be used for drama or light entertainment;
 - vi. any footage shown by the Inquiry will bear a prominent watermark which makes clear that Crown Copyright subsists. This watermark must be retained on any clips that are broadcast;
 - vii. no advertising may appear on any broadcast clip, whether overlaid on top of the broadcast clip or by preceding or interrupting the clip when published online or otherwise.
12. The Broadcast-Quality feed will be delayed in the interests of the protection of sensitive information including but not limited to the identity of those protected by anonymity and other protective measures.

Security, Distribution and Deletion

13. Each accredited media organisation (including for these purposes, journalists, other employees or contractors) agrees that – save for inclusion in its broadcasts – it will make no onward distribution to any third party of any unedited video footage of Inquiry proceedings that is held for the purpose of creating clips.
14. Any accredited media organisation that will hold or process Inquiry unedited video footage must have appropriate security measures to ensure that their systems, and the data within them, are not at risk of being compromised. The unedited video footage must only be stored and processed in the UK. If required, a media organisation should be capable of explaining to the Inquiry the security measures it has in place for holding unedited video footage in the United Kingdom and how those measures comply with standard information security guidelines.

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Role of the Inquiry

15. The Inquiry legal team will not advise accredited media organisations about what clips are, or are not, suitable for broadcast, including whether they are compliant with this Protocol.
16. Each media organisation is responsible for ensuring that each clip broadcast does not breach a Restriction Order, Court Order, or other legal or regulatory requirement.

Breach of the Protocol

17. In the unlikely event an accredited media organisation is considered to have breached this protocol, the Inquiry may:
 - i. amend the terms of this protocol as it applies to media organisations;
 - ii. review the accreditation of a particular media organisation or journalist;
 - iii. review, suspend or terminate the accredited media organisation's permission to broadcast clips under this protocol;
 - iv. take appropriate enforcement action under s.36 of the Inquiries Act 2005 or seek any other legal sanction, including seeking remedies for breach of copyright.

1 July 2025

APPENDIX: Form of Written Confirmation

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Journalist's Name: _____

Media Organisation representing (if any): _____

Email address: _____

Mobile telephone number: _____

I confirm all of the following statements are true:

- a) I am ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.
- b) I am aware of the terms of the extant reporting restriction orders made in the Crown Court in R v Rudakabana.
- c) I agree to abide by any orders made by the Inquiry under ss.17-19 Inquiries Act 2005, and the terms of the Media Broadcast Protocol.
- d) I am aware that the Live Link may not be recorded in any way, including by screenshot or photograph.

Signed: _____

Date: _____