

Southport Inquiry – Attending as a visitor

This page contains information on how members of the public can attend hearings.

Please complete the form on the website under the 'Attending as a visitor' tab. Once submitted, a member of the Inquiry will respond to you within two working days.

Submitting an application to attend does not mean that a space will be available. If no spaces are available for the day you'd like to attend, you'll be placed on a waiting list.

See the FAQ below for more information on what to expect.

For information on how we use your data, please refer to our privacy notice.

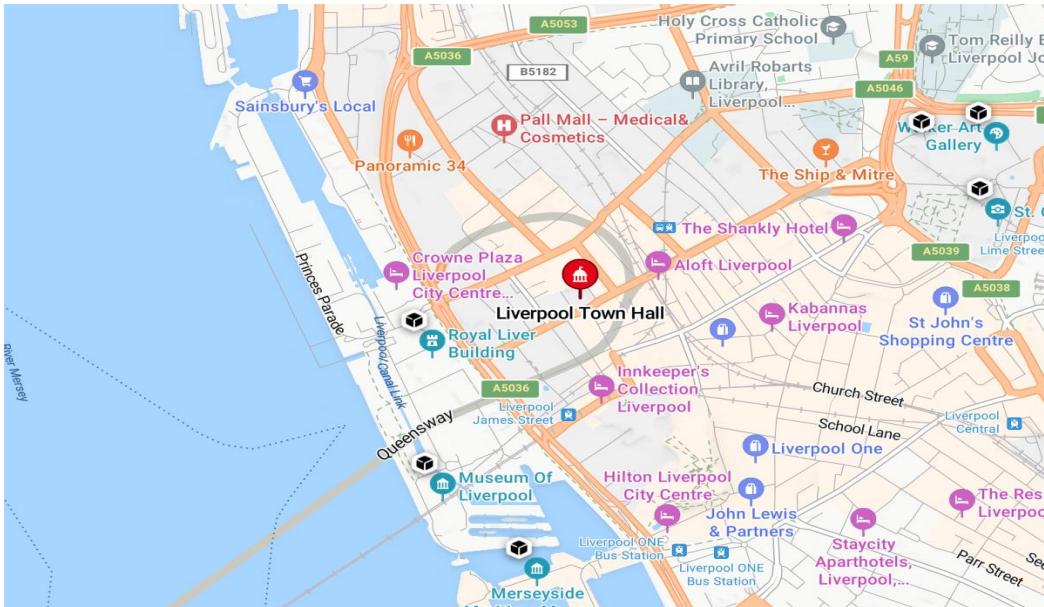
FAQs

How do I attend a hearing?

As set out above, please send an email to Info@southport.public-inquiry.uk. Please use 'Attendance request' in the subject header. Please set out your name, your contact email address and your telephone number and say what date you wish to attend.

Where will the hearings be held?

The hearings are held at Liverpool Town Hall, High Street, Liverpool, L2 3SW.



The Town Hall is centrally located, a 4-minute walk to James Street Station and a 6-minute walk to Moorfields Station, connected to the Merseyrail. The Town Hall is also a 15-minute walk to Liverpool Lime Street Station.

Can I attend for a week at a time?

No. You will need to submit a separate request for each day you wish to attend.

Am I guaranteed a space?

Submitting an application does not mean that you are guaranteed a space at a hearing. If no spaces are available for the day you'd like to attend, you'll be placed on a waiting list. We will contact you via email if a place becomes available.

Recordings and transcripts of hearings are available on the website.

How long will each hearing last?

Hearings will usually begin at 10am and finish by 4pm. There will be breaks during the day, including at lunchtime.

What can I bring with me?

For security reasons, you may not bring anything other than a small bag, such as a small backpack or handbag. Bags will be subject to search on arrival at Liverpool Town Hall.

There are rules on what items you can take in.

Items you're not allowed to take in

You cannot take guns, firearms, knives or other weapons into the building.

You'll be detained by security and held until the police arrive if you try to take a weapon into the building.

You also cannot take in items that security staff think could be used as a weapon, even if you think they're harmless.

These include things like:

- blades - such as scissors, penknives and razors
- other sharp items - such as knitting needles and darts
- glass - for example bottles
- metal cutlery
- syringes (unless you have a prescription)
- toy guns and other things that look like guns
- tools - for example screwdrivers, hammers and nails
- ropes and chains
- alcohol
- liquids that are not drinks or prescription medicine - such as oils, perfumes lighter refills and cleaning products
- full-length umbrellas
- crash helmets

You cannot bring e-bikes or e-scooters into the building.

Items you can take in

You can take in phones and cameras, but you must not take photos or make videos with them. Any person found to be using a digital device to make recordings during the hearings will be immediately removed and prevented from returning.

You can bring in hand sanitiser. You will be asked to use it in front of security staff to prove it's not harmful.

Drinks

You can take in:

- unopened drinks in cartons and cans
- drinks in a bottle, flask or cup with a lid - these cannot be made of glass

If your drink is opened, or in a bottle, flask or cup, you'll be asked to drink some to prove it's not harmful.

Medicines

You can take in prescription medicines. They must have the pharmacist label with your name and the date they were issued.

Security staff will check the label. They will not record or share the information.

Can I bring someone with me?

Everyone who attends must have a reserved space.

What will happen when I arrive at the Inquiry?

On arrival at Liverpool Town Hall you'll go through a security check, like you would at an airport. This may include:

- emptying your pockets into a tray
- taking off your shoes, coat, gloves or hat
- being asked to take off or open your belt
- walking through an archway detector
- being checked by hand or with a handheld scanner

If you're wearing a head covering for religious or cultural reasons, you can ask for it to be checked with a handheld scanner so you do not have to take it off.

Visitor pass

A member of staff will take your name and will issue you with a pass for the day.

What happens if I arrive late?

Entry will not be allowed after the time shown in your confirmation email. For most hearing days, this will be 9.45am.

If you need to leave the hearing room for any reason, you will not normally be re-admitted until there is a break in the proceedings.

Who will be in the hearing room?

There may be a number of different people attending including legal representatives, security staff, Inquiry staff, members of the public and members of the media.

The Chair will be in the middle of the hearing room and all Inquiry legal representatives face towards him.

Can I take my phone in?

You can bring your mobile telephone into the hearing room but it must be turned off or set to silent.

You are not permitted to take any photographs or video inside the Inquiry.

What if I need emotional support?

The subject matter of the Inquiry may be very distressing. There will be emotional support available at all hearings and if you would like to access this then please let a member of Inquiry staff at the hearings know and this will be arranged.

There are also some support services listed on our website.

What if I have accessibility needs?

If you have any accessibility needs then a member of our team will be pleased to help. Please mention this when you email to reserve a space.

Is there an age restriction?

The hearings are open to anyone aged 14 or over who wishes to attend. Anyone aged under 14 will not be permitted to attend the hearing room to observe. This is because the content of the hearings may be distressing and traumatic, which may be unsuitable for children or young people.