

Chair of the Inquiry
The Rt. Hon. Lord Bracadale

E: enquiries@shekubayohinquiry.scot

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament

The logo for the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry, featuring the words "SHEKU BAYOH INQUIRY" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark purple rectangular background.

By email only

22 May 2025

Dear Convener

Thank you for your letter dated 24 April 2025 regarding the Committee's consideration of the cost-effectiveness of Scottish public inquiries.

For background, following consideration and consultation, in February the Deputy First Minister declined a request made by members of Mr Bayoh's family to extend the terms of reference for the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry. Consequently, having concluded 122 days of evidence, the Inquiry now moves to a phase of closing submissions and preparation of the final report.

Since the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry was established in November 2020, my team has maintained a breakdown of overall costs across three categories. The Committee requests a breakdown of costs to align with those published by the Scottish Covid Inquiry. The existing breakdown we hold does not align with the categories requested and some do not directly apply to the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry.

To assist the Committee in addressing the gaps identified, I provide the following which insofar as possible uses similar descriptions to the Scottish Covid Inquiry breakdown:

- **Staff costs - £13,280,651**
This includes salaries of Chair, Counsel to the Inquiry, assessors, administrative, legal and agency staff.
- **Administration and accommodation costs - £6,768,278**
Covers operations, accommodation, IT, hearings and expert witness costs, witness expenses, Inquiry website maintenance, external counsel legal fees.
- **Section 40 costs - £4,750,814**
Awards of legal fees and expenses made to core participants under section 40 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

As of 31 March 2025, the total cost of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry is **£24,799,743**.

Witness expenses and the cost of expert witness reports and attendance at hearings are incorporated into the administration and accommodation section, as are costs associated with accessibility and website maintenance. The Sheku Bayoh Inquiry has held no public engagement events.

I hope these details assist the Committee in examining this matter. Please contact me or the Inquiry Secretary, Gill Surfleet, if we can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair P Campbell KC
The Rt. Hon. Lord Bracadale