



GDWG

Brook House Public Inquiry Report

What will
we be
covering
today?



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CONTEXT

KEY ISSUES

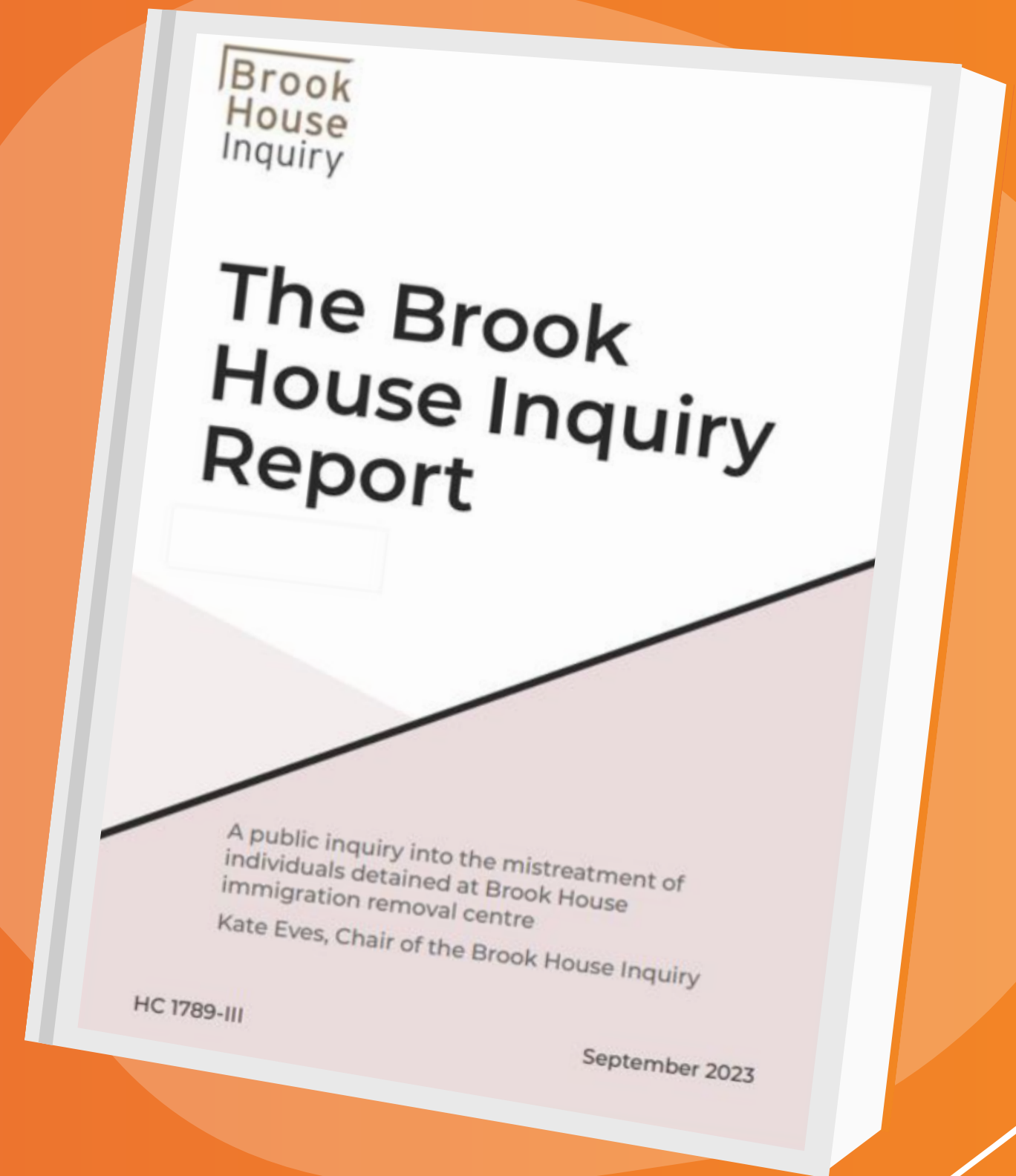
MONITORING

NEXT STEPS

The Full Inquiry Report

The full report can be found here:

brookhouseinquiry.org.uk/main-page/



Key Findings & Recommendations

The report was published on 19th September 2023

**The Chair, Kate Eves, made
33 important recommendations**

Places of detention are the hidden spaces in our society

There is no higher role for the state than as a guardian of those who are detained and in its care.

For people who do not have citizenship, their precarious status makes them inherently more vulnerable and factors such as language barriers or poor health can intersect to make them yet more susceptible to harm

The physical environment was entirely unsuitable for detaining people for anything other than a short period of time

The impact of the prison-like environment was particularly detrimental for those with mental ill health or other vulnerabilities.



I am recommending that the government introduce a time limit, whereby those detained at Immigration Removal Centres, including Brook House, should only be kept there for a maximum of 28 days



19 incidents in a 5-month period

credible evidence that detained people had been subject to mistreatment capable of amounting to inhuman and/or degrading treatment, contrary to Article 3 ECHR

Individual errors

resulting in specific incidents of mistreatment

Policies, practices, management

a significant volume of wide-ranging generic failures in the methods, policies, practices and management arrangements of the Home Office and its private contractors.

Systemic failures

a significant volume of wide-ranging generic failures in the methods, policies, practices and management arrangements of the Home Office and its private contractors.

Toxic culture



I have rejected the narrative portrayed by both the Home Office and G4S in their evidence, that events at Brook House were primarily the result of the behaviour of a small minority of staff. The evidence produced in the course of the Inquiry does not support this, and attempts to characterise the events in this way both minimise what occurred and seek to distance the Home Office and G4S from their responsibility for the prevailing culture. Many of the issues I have identified relate to a failure to follow the rules and safeguards that already exist in recognition of the risks associated with immigration detention. The troubling tendency to pay only superficial attention to the rules contributed to the toxic environment that existed at Brook House



Monitoring

Cell sharing

Rule 35

Handcuffing

Medical

Staffing levels

Computers & internet

Rule 40
Rule 42

Use of force

Culture

Issues across the UK's immigration detention estate



CONTRACTUAL MONITORING	MISUSE OF FORCE
TOXIC CULTURE	HEALTHCARE
SAFEGUARDS	SEGREGATION





I return to the former Home Secretary's wish to learn lessons.

On this occasion, lessons must be learned and more than mere lip service paid to my recommendations.



Current context

The UK government is planning to increase its use of immigration detention

There is an increase in use of inadequate quasi-detention sites

The Home Office cannot ensure adequate conditions or safeguards for vulnerable people

Plans to remove people further afield to places such as Rwanda

The background is a solid orange color with a gradient from a darker shade on the left to a lighter shade on the right. There are several abstract, organic shapes in lighter shades of orange and white. One large, semi-transparent shape is in the top-left corner. A white wavy line starts near the top-left and curves across the top. Another white wavy line starts near the bottom-right and curves across the bottom. The text "Write to your MP" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Write to your MP

Next Steps

The government and organisations identified in the report must publish details of their next steps by 19 March 2024

Implementation of, and compliance with, the Inquiry's recommendations will be regularly monitored and reported upon

This monitoring and reporting will be conducted by the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.



Thank you