

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

RESTRICTION ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

Restriction Order No. 17 (“P98’s mother”)

The Chair has power under section 19(1)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 to make orders restricting disclosure or publication of evidence or documents given, produced or provided to an Inquiry.

I have been asked by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to make an additional restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act in relation to the statement of evidence and exhibits of “P98’s mother”. The evidence of P98’s mother will be read to the Inquiry Panel on 14 September 2023. There are already general restriction orders in relation to the naming of patients and members of staff, but I am asked to make this order to add a further level of protection. The purpose of this order is to protect against any adverse impact on any potential criminal justice process in relation to the evidence of P98’s mother.

Therefore, having considered that application and in exercise of that power, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. There may be no reporting of any sort whatever of the statement of evidence and exhibits of P98’s mother (or the reading thereof) until this restriction order is lifted.
2. To make that clear to Core Participants (CPs) that means that there is to be no communication in any form whatever to disclose to any third party that evidence or any part of it whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. The only people allowed to be present to hear the evidence being read will be lawyers representing CPs and the Inquiry counsel, solicitor and staff, accredited members of the press, who understand well enough what this order means, and any CP who has signed a confidentiality agreement.
4. The feed to Hearing room B is to be cut and no member of the public outside of those just listed will be allowed in this room.
5. Furthermore, the transcript of this evidence will not be published while this restriction order is in place.

6. This Order remains in force for the duration of the Inquiry and at all times thereafter, unless otherwise ordered.
7. I may vary or revoke this Order by making a further Order during the course of the Inquiry.

Any threat to break this Order, or any breach of it, can be certified to the High Court under section 36 of the Inquiries Act, which will deal with it as though the breach had occurred in proceedings before that Court.

Made by the Chair on 14 September 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kark', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Tom Kark KC
Chair