



## **MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY**

### **RESTRICTION ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005**

#### **Restriction Order No. 81 (Barry Mills)**

I have 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 a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 relation to paragraph 64 of the statement of Barry Mills, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding with PPS and PSNI.

Further, I have been asked by Inquiry Counsel to make a restriction order under the same provision in relation to paragraphs 68 and 69 of the statement of Barry Mills, on the basis that those paragraphs address matters that are already subject to restriction orders in this Inquiry.

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 (i) to protect against any adverse impact on the criminal justice process in relation to the evidence of Barry Mills, and (ii) to preserve the integrity of and ensure consistency with other restriction orders made during this Inquiry.

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 paragraphs 64, 68 and 69 of the statement of evidence of the witness Barry Mills and related oral evidence on 26 June 2024, 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 the restricted part of the evidence of Barry Mills whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. The only people allowed to be present to hear the restricted part of the evidence will be lawyers representing CPs and the Inquiry counsel 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. During the restricted part of the evidence, 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 Furthermore, the transcript of the restricted part of this witness's evidence will not be published while this restriction order is in place.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.

#### Variation

Further to a request by the Solicitor to the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland dated 11 July 2025 that Coroner's counsel be provided with access to the transcript of the restricted part of this witness's evidence for the purpose of assessing whether the material is potentially relevant for the purposes of an inquest, I will vary this order to the following extent:

8. Senior and Junior Counsel to the Coroner are permitted to have access to the relevant transcript for the purpose of assessing whether the material is potentially relevant to the inquest. Further, they may communicate with the Solicitor to the Coroner and the Coroner with reference to the content of the transcript for the purpose of advising the Coroner on the potential relevance of the material to the inquest.
9. Should the Coroner determine that further use of the transcript may be necessary for the purpose of the inquest, a further application for variation should be made.

Made by the Chair on 26 June 2024

Varied by the Chair on 23 July 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kark', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tom Kark KC Chair