

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

RESTRICTION ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

Restriction Order No. 86 (“Marie Curran”)

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 (PSNI) and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) to make an additional restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act in relation to the evidence of Marie Curran. 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 the criminal justice process in relation to the evidence about to be given. I also have to have regard to the undertaking given by the Inquiry under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Inquiry, the PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service.

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 last paragraph (being the last four lines) on page 43 of the statement of Marie Curran (MAHI – STM – 315 – 43), and any related evidence, 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 Marie Curran whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. The only people allowed to be present to hear the last paragraph (being the last four lines) on page 43 of the statement of Marie Curran (MAHI – STM – 315 – 43), and any related 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 undertaking.

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 Furthermore, the transcript of the restricted part of this witness's evidence will not be published while this restriction order is in place.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.

Made by the Chair on 17 September 2024

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

Tom Kark KC
Chair