

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

RESTRICTION ORDER

PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

Restriction Order No. 39 ('A7')

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 invited by the legal representative of witness 'A7' to make a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 in relation to their evidence. The purpose of this order is to protect against the possible identification of witness 'A7'. 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 PPS. 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.

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

1. There may be no reporting of any sort whatever of the evidence of the witness 'A7', 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 evidence they hear during the evidence, whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. The only people allowed to be present to hear the evidence 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. During 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 Furthermore, the transcript of this witness' evidence will not be published while this restriction order is in place.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.
8. This Order was varied by Restriction Order No. 103 made on 18 June 2026, to enable publication in the Panel's final report of the text specified in the Schedule to that Order.

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 29 January 2024

Varied by the Chair on 18 June 2026

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

Tom Kark KC
Chair