

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

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

Restriction Order No. 26 ('P117's Mother' and 'P117's Father')

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 Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to make a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 in relation to part of the statement of evidence of P117's Mother and also part of the oral evidence of P117's Mother and P117's Father, heard on 10 October 2023. The application is made on the basis that the hearing of that evidence in restricted session is necessary to protect the integrity of the ongoing criminal investigations and prosecutions. I am satisfied that these parts of the witnesses' evidence can be held in a discrete restricted session following on from the main part of the witnesses' evidence, in respect of which restriction is not necessary.

I have also considered further information requested from the PPS in relation to their application that a Reporting Restriction be imposed on the first names of P117's parents and P117, and I am satisfied on the basis of that information that such a restriction is justified.

In considering this application, I have had particular regard to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Inquiry, the PSNI and the PPS, in which I have undertaken to make every effort to ensure that the procedure and conduct of the Inquiry respects the integrity of the PSNI investigation and prosecutions. 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.

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 restricted part of the evidence of the witnesses P117's Mother and P117's Father, commencing at the conclusion of the open part of the evidence on 10 October 2023, 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 that restricted part of the evidence, whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. Further, there may be no reporting of any sort whatever of the names of P117 or P117's Mother and Father.
4. The only people allowed to be present to hear the restricted part of 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.
5. 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.
6. Furthermore, the transcript of the restricted part of this witnesses' evidence will not be published while this restriction order is in place. The transcript of the open part of the evidence shall refer to the patient only as P117, the patient's mother as P117's Mother and the patient's father as P117's Father.
7. This Order remains in force for the duration of the Inquiry and at all times thereafter, unless otherwise ordered.
8. I may vary or revoke this Order by making a further Order during the course of the Inquiry.
9. 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 10 October 2023

Varied by the Chair on 18 June 2026



Tom Kark KC
Chair