

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

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

Restriction Order No. 79 (Eilish Steele)

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.

This Order relates to the evidence of Eilish Steele, who gave evidence to the Inquiry on 4 June 2024. I have been asked by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland to make a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 in relation to this witness's evidence. 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 of Eilish Steele.

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 following parts the statement of Eilish Steele: paragraph 220(d); paragraph 278(c); and the whole of paragraph 406.
2. To make that clear to Core Participants (CPs) that means that there is to be no communication in any form whatever to any third party of the name of the witness or of that part of the evidence specified in paragraph 1 above, whether by verbal, social media or any other form of communication.
3. The only people allowed to be present to hear the parts of the statement specified in paragraph 1 above 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 during the reading of those parts of the statement and no member of the public outside of those just listed will be allowed in this room.

5. Furthermore, the transcript of the reading of those parts of the statement will not be published while this restriction order is in place.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 04 June 2024

Varied by the Chair on 18 June 2026

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

Tom Kark KC
Chair