

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COURTS

CORONERS' COURTS

12 MAY 2020

Coroners will continue to deal with reported deaths as usual and extra coronial resources will be allocated from other court tiers if necessary.

Hearings concerning Coroners' business will generally address urgent matters only. In the unlikely event that a party requires a hearing they should contact the Coroners Service or the Legacy Inquest Unit, as appropriate, providing a written explanation for the request. The Coroner will consider the application and determine if the case should be listed and, if so, who should, if anyone, be present in court. Where possible all hearings should be undertaken remotely.

Where appropriate preliminary issues may be dealt with on the papers or by way of a remote hearing if the Coroner determines this is required. Where a remote hearing is to take place representatives [and properly interested parties] will be notified by the Coroners Service/Legacy Inquest Unit and provided with details of how to log into the hearing.

Inquests, including legacy inquests, and preliminary hearings will otherwise generally be adjourned.

- Legacy: Coroners and the Legacy Inquest Unit will continue to case manage the legacy inquests listed for Year 1. Exchanges will be by way of email or telephone conferencing. The Presiding Coroner issued a statement on [29 April 2020](#) to provide an update on progress.
- Non Legacy: Coroners will undertake administrative reviews of non-legacy cases listed from a date to be confirmed. Where the Coroner determines a hearing is required this will take place remotely. This process will determine a way forward, which may be for example to issue Directions, requests for further information, listing for preliminary hearing, adjourn or list for a future hearing.