

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
SITTING AT CORN EXCHANGE, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

HEARD BEFORE THE INQUIRY PANEL
ON TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022 - DAY 15

Gwen Malone Stenography
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action.

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APPEARANCES

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INQUIRY PANEL: MR. TOM KARK KC - CHAIRPERSON
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1 THE INQUIRY RESUMED ON TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AS
2 FOLLOWS:

3
4 CHAIRPERSON: Good morning, everybody, and I hope
5 everybody has been given some warning that we have got 10:00
6 problems today. The position is this: There is a
7 registered intermediary who has been working with both
8 the witnesses that we were going to have today, this
9 morning and this afternoon's witness, and,
10 unfortunately, he contacted the Inquiry this morning at 10:00
11 about 8:30 to inform us that he has tested positive for
12 Covid.

13
14 We have made attempts to find an alternative RI -
15 that's not always best practice in any event, but we 10:00
16 wanted to see what we could do, and, in fact,
17 unfortunately, no other RI is available.

18
19 I have taken the decision, therefore, that even if the
20 witness wanted to, and I'm not sure he does, we ought 10:00
21 not to proceed today, having recognised that these are
22 vulnerable witnesses and they need an RI, then that's
23 how we ought to proceed. So can I apologise to
24 everybody. Obviously it's not the Inquiry's fault, nor
25 is it the RI's fault, but my decision is that we have 10:01
26 to adjourn today.

27
28 Could I just mention tomorrow? Obviously we will
29 reschedule these two witnesses and give everybody as

1 much notice as we can.

2
3 So far as tomorrow is concerned, tomorrow is the day
4 that we have the witness who has the phobia of masks.
5 Could I ask anybody who wants to wear a mask - and if 10:01
6 this could be repeated to any CPs who are attending -
7 should sit in Room B - when the witness is brought up
8 into the main public area she will be with Inquiry
9 staff, so please could you be alert and if asked to
10 move by Inquiry staff, please could you do so promptly. 10:01
11 And obviously not have masks with you in the public
12 area in sight of the witness. That witness will be
13 giving evidence I think in the morning, but in any
14 event, she will be here all day tomorrow, so I am
15 afraid that applies throughout the day. Please be very 10:02
16 conscious of that. There's nothing else I think is
17 there, Mr. Doran?

18 MR. DORAN: No, Chair. Can I jus say that I've spoken
19 to the witness who was scheduled to give evidence this
20 morning, and he understands the position fully and I 10:02
21 have assured him that his evidence will be rescheduled
22 for October.

23 CHAIRPERSON: Right. Well, I am sure there's plenty of
24 work that people can do today, but apologies that the
25 Inquiry can't sit. So we'll adjourn until tomorrow at 10:02
26 10:00 o'clock. Thank you very much.

27
28 THE INQUIRY WAS THEN ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, 28TH
29 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.