

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY**

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

**Restriction Order No. 98  
(Core Participant 'restricted closing statements')**

I have power under section 19(1)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 to make orders restricting the disclosure or publication of evidence or documents given, produced or provided to an Inquiry.

I have been invited by the legal representatives of Core Participant groups 1 and 2 represented by Phoenix Law solicitors, Core Participant group 3 represented by O'Reilly Stewart solicitors and Core Participant Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) represented by DLS, to make a restriction order under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 in relation to part of their oral closing statements which relates to evidence given under previous restriction orders. The purpose of this order is to protect against any adverse impact on the criminal justice process in relation to the oral statements made on the 04 and 05 March 2025 referring to material restricted under previous restriction orders. I am satisfied that this order is necessary in the public interest and that it is conducive to the Inquiry fulfilling its terms of reference, having particular regard to my duties under the Memorandum of Understanding with PSNI and PPS.

Therefore, having considered these applications and in exercise of that power, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. There may be no reporting of any sort whatever of the restricted oral statements to be heard on (04 March 2025 and 05 March 2025) from the Core Participants Groups One, Two and Three and the BHSCT.
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 information they hear during restricted closing statements 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. 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 Furthermore, the transcript of the Core Participants restricted submissions will not be published while this restriction order is in place.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.

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 4 and 5 March 2025

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

Tom Kark KC  
Chair