



Conor Mullan

Year of Call: 2003

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Inquests

Conor Mullan has substantial experience of inquests in Coroner's Courts and as counsel in wider Public Inquiries, representing the interests of families of the deceased or those of other interested parties, advising on and acting in subsequent fatal accident claims or other associated proceedings.

Conor's expertise in the fields of serious and complex criminal law as well as personal injury and clinical negligence gives him a rare combination of skills which has been invaluable in building a busy inquest and inquiry practice, including Statutory Public Inquiries.

Conor is frequently instructed in Article 2 inquests, as well as at more conventional domestic inquests (including both jury and coroner-only hearings), and in judicial reviews relating to inquests and other coronial matters, and at inquiries following fatalities.

Notable Inquiries

Conor is instructed in the **UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry** in an ongoing specialist advisory role for a number of participant NHS organisations.

Conor was also instructed as counsel in the ongoing **Grenfell Tower Inquiry**, which was created to examine the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower in West London on the night of 14 June 2017.

Notable Inquests

Represented family after prison suicide: Conor represented the family of Roseanne Irvine over a number of weeks in an Article 2 jury inquest into her suicide whilst in custody at HMP Maghaberry in Northern Ireland. The inquest was monitored by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and was the subject of a report "NIHRC- The prison within" into the imprisonment of women. The inquest jury came to an unprecedented verdict which then formed the backbone of civil proceedings in the High Court on behalf of the family. The inquest was widely reported and subject to extensive commentary in the media. The Coroner made representations to HM Government recommending the holding of an independent Public Inquiry arising out of this case.

Represented family after police car pursuit deaths: Conor appeared for the family of the deceased in an Article 2 jury inquest lasting a number of weeks concerning the police pursuit of a stolen vehicle. This resulted in the fatalities of a number of young occupants in the vehicle with particular focus on the actions of the police against a complex backdrop leading up to their involvement. The inquest examined all aspects of police investigation and responses, risk assessments, education and training, conduct and policy and procedure in pursuits.

Represented care home after death of resident with dementia: Appeared on behalf of a care home following the death of an elderly resident with dementia. This was an inquest described by the Coroner as "of particular legal and evidential complexity." The inquest lasted a number of weeks over the course of a year. It was initially halted following evidential challenges during the inquest to allow for a police re-investigation, such were the unique and novel issues of law that arose. The inquest recommenced to conclusion around a year after the hearing had initially opened. The inquest involved complex exploration and considerations of the conclusions of Unlawful Killing, Gross Negligence Manslaughter and Corporate Manslaughter; none of which were ultimately found against the care home in the final decision of the Coroner.

Represented a Mental Healthcare Trust after death of patient: Appeared on behalf of a Mental Healthcare Trust following the death of a patient receiving specialist treatment across a number of different services, mental health charities and NHS trusts. Specific consideration given to Article 2 ECHR and concerned inter alia the operational duties of specific mental health services, involving NHS Trusts, regarding psychiatric care of patients with mental health needs.

Represented a Local Authority after death of a vulnerable person in a house-fire: Represented a Local Authority over a week long inquest arising out of the death of a vulnerable individual in a house fire. The inquest examined in detail the role of the Fire Service, Fire investigation process and procedure, Adult Social Care, Local Authority multi-disciplinary remit, Fire Risk Assessment process and procedures and Community Review infrastructure. The conclusion of Misadventure was explored in detail against the specific factual matrix of the case.

Represented a Local Authority after death of vulnerable person with issues of criminality/drug abuse: Inquest in which Conor appeared for a Local Authority over a number of weeks regarding the inquest to a vulnerable person who passed following the suspicion of the committing of serious criminal acts over a protracted period. The case involved the issues of inter alia; serious individual and organised crime, substance addiction misuse, addiction services, care placements, nationwide homelessness provisions, role of hostels and housing associations, NHS Trusts and General Practice health provision for the most vulnerable in society, recovery and rehabilitation services.

Recommendations

"His knowledge of the law and analytical ability is outstanding."

Member of the Judiciary

Academic qualifications

- Institute of Professional Legal Studies, Barrister course
- LLB (Hons)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Bar of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Professional bodies

- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Inner Temple