

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

FINDINGS ON INQUEST

On an inquest taken for our Sovereign Lord the King at Newry Courthouse in the County Court Division of Down from 13 February 2024 – 13 March 2024 before Mrs A-L Toal Coroner for the District of Northern Ireland touching the death of Hugh Gerard Coney

To inquire how, when and where the said Hugh Gerard Coney

Came to their death, the following matters were found

Findings:

1. Was the deceased in the process of escaping from the Maze Prison when he was shot, after having exited compound 5 via a tunnel dug by those who were held in that compound?

Yes

2. Was it a soldier who shot him?

Yes

3. If yes, which soldier?

HCM1

4. Where was the deceased when he was shot? The jury's answer to this question could be given in words only or by using or by reference to the plan from Sgt Faulkner.

Passage & area of red staining

5. Where was the person when he fired in the direction of the deceased? The jury's answer to this question could be given in words only or by using or by reference to the plan from Sgt Faulkner.

In between point A and point B on Sgt Faulkners map

6. Did the shooter fire one or two shots?

Two shots

7. If more than one, which shot struck the deceased?

Second shot

8. What warnings, if any, were issued before the first shot?

General warning given. Directed to all.

9. If you conclude there were two shots, what warnings, if any, were issued before the second shot?

No verbal warning given.

10. Did the shooter see something shining/reflecting in the light before the first shot was fired?

No

11. If you conclude a second shot was fired, did the shooter see something shining/reflecting in the light before the second shot was fired?

No

12. Was the deceased armed at the time he was shot?

No

13. What position/posture was the deceased in when he was shot?

Crawling forward, away from HM Prison Maze

14. What was the deceased doing immediately prior to his death?

Waiting to continue through passage of wire

15. Was the entry wound in the deceased's lower right back (chest) as described by Dr Carson and Professor Crane?

Yes

16. Was the exit wound in his left jaw/mouth area as described by Dr Carson and Professor Crane?

Yes

17. Did he die as a result of the injuries caused by the bullet travelling from entry to the exit wound?

Yes