

# Judicial Communications Office

17 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESS NOTICE

LEGACY INQUEST UNIT

**INQUEST TOUCHING UPON THE DEATHS OF JOHN DOUGAL,  
PATRICK BUTLER, FR NOEL FITZPATRICK, DAVID  
MCCAFFERTY AND MARGARET GARGAN  
(COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS 'THE SPRINGHILL INQUEST')**

The inquest touching upon the deaths of John Dougal, Patrick Butler, Fr Noel Fitzpatrick, David McCafferty and Margaret Gargan will commence on 20 February 2023 at Laganside Court, Belfast before the Coroner, the Honourable Mr Justice Scoffield. The inquest is collectively known as 'the Springhill Inquest'.

On 9/10 July 1972, John Dougal, 16 years old, Patrick Butler, 37 years old, Fr Noel Fitzpatrick, 42 years old, David McCafferty, 15 years old, and Margaret Gargan, 13 years old, died after sustaining fatal bullet wounds in the Springhill / Westrock area of Belfast.

This inquest, the second into the deaths of the 5 deceased, was directed by the Attorney-General for Northern Ireland following an application by the families.

This inquest is included within the 5 year legacy inquest plan.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Please note limited seating is available for members of the press within the courtroom. Should any member of the press wish to attend court, please contact the Legacy Inquest Unit in advance on 028 9044 6835 / [legacy@courtsni.gov.uk](mailto:legacy@courtsni.gov.uk).
2. The proceedings can also be followed via sightlink 7 - <https://my.sightlink.net/meet/54834852/>.
3. The inquest will commence at 11.00am on Monday 20 February 2023 at which point the sightlink will be locked. The press are asked to logon to sightlink 10 minutes prior to commencement.

ENDS

If you have any further enquiries about this or any other court related matter please contact:

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