

Judicial Communications Office

5 JULY 2022

PRESS NOTICE

LEGACY INQUEST UNIT

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE INJURY AND DEATH OF JOHN DOUGAL, PATRICK BUTLER, FR NOEL FITZPATRICK, DAVID MCCAFFERTY AND MARGARET GARGAN ON 9 JULY 1972

The Coroner, His Honour Judge Rafferty QC, is investigating the deaths of John Dougal, 16 years old; Patrick Butler, 39 years old; Father Noel Fitzpatrick, 40 years old; David McCafferty, 15 years old and Margaret Gargan, 13 years old on 9 July 1972. These inquests are collectively known as 'The Springhill Inquest.'

On the evening of 9 July 1972, all 5 deceased were in Springhill / Westrock area of Belfast when they sustained fatal bullet wounds.

As the 50th anniversary of events in Springhill / Westrock approaches, the Coroner, His Honour Judge Rafferty QC, requests that anyone who can assist the inquests in examining the deaths of John Dougal, Patrick Butler, Fr Noel Fitzpatrick, David McCafferty and Margaret Gargan make contact with the Legacy Inquest Unit. There may, for example, be persons who were in the Springhill / Westrock area at the relevant time or who may have relevant information concerning the deaths but who have not yet brought that information to the attention of the authorities.

Any individual who was in the area at the relevant time or who may have relevant information is requested to contact Elaine Robson, Legacy Inquest Unit using the contact details below:

Legacy Inquest Unit
Lady Chief Justice's Office
1st Floor, Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA
Telephone: 028 9044 6835
Email: legacy@courtsni.gov.uk

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

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