

Judicial Communications Office

28 February 2019

LEGACY INQUESTS

The Lord Chief Justice, Sir Declan Morgan, today issued the following statement in response to the announcement by the Department of Justice that funding is to be made available for legacy inquests commencing in April 2019:

“On 12 February 2016 I proposed a plan for dealing with what have now come to be known as the “legacy inquests”.

Legacy inquests have an impact on bereaved families, those who have served in the police and armed forces, other state agencies; and very often the wider communities in which these deaths occurred.

I am pleased that funding is now going to be provided to implement the plan for dealing with legacy inquests which I proposed over three years ago. There is clearly a great deal of preparatory work to be done to establish the Legacy Inquest Unit and deliver my plan. During this preparatory period, it will be important to engage with all the relevant agencies and parties who will have to play their part in ensuring that the outstanding inquests can be completed within a five year period once the unit has been established.

While the preparations for the Legacy Inquest Unit are ongoing, I expect that there will be a further Judge-led review to follow up on the work undertaken by Lord Justice Weir when he carried out a comprehensive review of these cases in February 2016. We anticipate this review will be completed before the summer recess.”

ENDS

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

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