



INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC – ATTENDANCE AT INQUESTS

1. This Procedure comes into effect from Monday 17 August 2026 and replaces the previous Procedure set out on HM Coroner Cumbria's website.
2. This Procedure is intended for members of the Public, including the Media. If you are family, an Interested Person or a witness, please contact the Coroner's Officer assigned to your loved one's Inquest.

Inquest Hearings

3. HM Coroner Cumbria welcomes and supports transparency of Court proceedings.
4. Save in exceptional circumstances, Inquest hearings are published at least 7 days prior to the hearing. Hearings are listed on HM Coroner Cumbria's website.
5. Inquest hearings (including Inquest openings and Pre-Inquest Review hearings) are public hearings. Anyone is welcome to attend, including members of the public, including the press.
6. HM Coroner ensures that there is appropriate public access to all hearings, save in the rare circumstances where Rules 11(4) and / or 11(5) Coroners (Inquest) Rules 2013 apply. Where either of these Rules apply, it will be made clear on HM Coroner Cumbria's website.
7. The new Coroner's Court is at Allerdale House in Workington. The Court is readily accessed by bus and by train. There is plentiful car parking at the Court. Court users can register for free parking on arrival at Reception.
8. The Court has facilities to ensure equal access to all. Any person who has specific access requirements is encouraged contact the Court Office on hmcoroner@cumbria.gov.uk or 0300 303 3180.
9. Fair and accurate reporting of proceedings is encouraged. At the same time, families deserve sensitivity and respect for their privacy. The Coroner's Court has a designated private Family Room for families. There is a spacious Reception area available to members of the press.

Remote Access to Inquest Hearings

10. Please refer to the links at the end of this Procedure.
11. No-one has the right to observe a hearing remotely. Individuals are entitled to apply for permission. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be refused.
12. For some time, HM Coroner Cumbria has given the press remote access to most hearings by audio link without a formal application being made, provided that a minimum of 48 hours' notice is given. However, given the number of requests for remote access and increased demands on the Coroner's Service and resources, **this practice is now being changed with effect from 17 August 2026 and for all inquests heard on or after 24 August 2026.**
13. In accordance with Section 85A Courts Act 2003 and the Remote Observation and Recordings (Courts and Tribunals) Regulations 2022, members of the press and the public may apply to attend a hearing remotely.
14. Remote access will no longer be by audio link. If remote access is granted, it will be by video link only. **Only video link access will be given for inquests heard after 24 August 2026.**
15. Requests for remote access, including reasons for the request, should be made as far in advance as possible. **A minimum of 4 working days' notice and before 16:30** is required in all cases. Requests made after that timeframe may not be processed and attendance in person required.
16. For example, for hearings / openings on a Tuesday – the request must be made before 16:30 the previous Wednesday.
17. This timeframe will be kept under review.
18. Any application to attend a hearing remotely must be made in writing to hmcoroner@cumbria.gov.uk. **All applications must include the reasons why remote access should be granted.** In particular, the applicant must explain why it would be in the interests of justice to allow them to observe a hearing remotely when the Court is open to the public.
19. Remote attendance should not normally be permitted purely because a person would prefer it or it would be more convenient to them.
20. All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Guidance set out at the end of this Procedure.
21. The Coroner will consider any application received and will permit remote attendance if satisfied that it would be in the interests of justice, if there is the capacity and technological capability to enable it, and it would not create an unreasonable administrative burden on the Court.

22. Given that the Court is open, accessible and available to all, the administrative burden of establishing a “virtual public gallery” solely for the press and public is unlikely to be in the interests of justice, unless there are particular circumstances identified in the application. In all cases each application will be judged on its own merits whilst taking account of judicial guidance (see links below). A refusal to make a direction for remote attendance is not the same as denying public access to the proceedings.
23. Separate requests must be made for each Inquest hearing requested.
24. If your request for remote access is granted, you will be sent a link containing joining instructions and guidance for attendance. This guidance **must** be followed.
25. In particular, the video link must be treated as an extension of the Courtroom. A remote hearing is a formal Court hearing, not a meeting. You should be in a place which befits a Court hearing and an Inquest. Behaviour must be formal and Court etiquette adopted. Please respect the deceased, the bereaved and the Coroner.
26. Links to access a hearing are specific to the addressee. Links must not be forwarded, even to someone from the same organisation.
27. You must join the hearing at least 5 minutes before it is due to start. You may have to wait until the Coroner or Inquest Clerk admits you into the hearing. If you are late, you may not be admitted.
28. Whilst every effort is made to start a hearing on time, there may sometimes be a delay starting a hearing.
29. Do not leave the hearing unless invited to by the Coroner.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU MAKE A RECORDING OF THE INQUEST

Requests for Information

30. The Coroner’s Office is experiencing a high volume of requests for information about inquests even before a hearing has taken place. All relevant information will be provided at the hearing. We are unable to provide information about a death in advance of a hearing.
31. It is inappropriate for members of the press to try to speak to the Coroner about a case. Press representatives should not approach a Coroner with queries. Coroners are Judges and should be respected as such. Any queries should be directed to the Inquest Clerk who will assist if possible.

32. We aim to deal with requests for Records of Inquest within 7 days of the request being received. In the case of inquest recordings, we aim to respond within 7 days of the signed Recording Warning being received.
33. Any requests for recordings or documents must be made in accordance with the Chief Coroner's Guidance to Coroners on the Bench Chapter 8 (see link at the end of this Procedure).

Precinct of the Coroner's Court – HM Coroner's Court in Workington

34. The precinct of the court is the ramp to the doors, the visitor and disabled bays in front of the entrance, and the flagstones until the markings for Keep Clear and Visitor Parking Bays. It also covers the unmade ground to the east of the entrance. Please contact our office by email to hmc coroner@cumbria.gov.uk for further details.

Links

1. Chief Coroner's Guidance to Coroners on the Bench Chapter 6 - Remote Hearings - [Remote hearings - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#).
2. Practice Guidance issued by the Lord Chief Justice and Senior President of Tribunals - [Practice Guidance on Remote Observation of Hearings – New Powers - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#).
3. Chief Coroner's Guidance to Coroners on the Bench Chapter 8 - [Open Justice - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)
4. IPSO Guidance and Information for the Public on Reporting Suicide - [IPSO launches Guidance for journalists and Information for the public on Reporting Suicide - IPSO](#)
5. Samaritans Media Guidelines for reporting suicides - [Samaritans' media guidelines for reporting suicide | Samaritans](#)

ADVANCE NOTICE - INQUEST CONCERNING THE DEATH OF MR SERGII KUZMENKO

35. There will be no remote access to this Inquest. Attendance will be in person only.
36. To ensure that there is adequate room in Court, members of the public, including the press, who wish to attend will be required to notify the Coroner's Officers in advance.
37. Two witnesses have been granted anonymity. During their evidence, the main Courtroom (Court 1) will be closed save to those who have permission from the Coroner to see the witnesses (see Judgment and Order). The proceedings will be

livestreamed into Court 2 which will act as the public gallery during the evidence of those witnesses.

38. Details of how to request attendance will be published well in advance of the Inquest.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to read "Kirsty J Gomersal".

Miss K J Gomersal
HM Senior Coroner Cumbria
12 August 2026