



## Kent and Medway Coroner Service

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### **CORONAVIRUS : LISTING OF OPENINGS, PRE-INQUEST REVIEWS AND INQUESTS DURING THE PANDEMIC UPDATE 30th MARCH 2020**

The impact of the pandemic upon the Coroners' Service and the Coroners' Court is under constant review. In common with the Criminal and Civil Courts and the courts in other Coroner areas we must make every effort to maintain a functioning court system during the pandemic. The Service is therefore taking steps to ensure that urgent and essential hearings can go ahead with appropriate precautions being taken. Cases already listed before Easter which fall into this category will remain listed. All remaining cases will be adjourned administratively and will be relisted later in the year.

What constitutes urgent and essential business will be decided on a case by case basis by the Coroner.

Clearly adjustments to the extent of the evidence to be received and the manner in which the evidence is received may have to be made for any inquest which the Coroner considers to be urgent or essential. The inquest team will contact all parties and where necessary, witnesses in relation to individual cases when those cases have been reviewed by the Coroner.

Inquest openings will be listed on occasions when the court is sitting.

Any person intending to attend court who has a fever or cough or is self-isolating in accordance with the Government's guidelines must not attend the court in person. If you planned to attend a hearing within the next fourteen days and are unwell or self-isolating please contact the Coroners' Service by email at [KentandMedwayAdmin@kent.gov.uk](mailto:KentandMedwayAdmin@kent.gov.uk) with the subject matter marked Court Attendance with the date of the inquest and the name. Please do not contact the service by telephone unless it is urgent or you have no other means of contacting the service.

**Patricia Harding**  
Senior Coroner  
Mid Kent & Medway  
Central & South East Kent  
North East Kent

**Roger Hatch**  
Senior Coroner  
North West Kent

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (2)