



Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016

2016 asp 2

Inquiries into certain deaths

1 Inquiries under this Act

- (1) Where an inquiry is to be held into the death of a person in accordance with sections 2 to 7, the procurator fiscal must—
 - (a) investigate the circumstances of the death, and
 - (b) arrange for the inquiry to be held.
- (2) An inquiry is to be conducted by a sheriff.
- (3) The purpose of an inquiry is to—
 - (a) establish the circumstances of the death, and
 - (b) consider what steps (if any) might be taken to prevent other deaths in similar circumstances.
- (4) But it is not the purpose of an inquiry to establish civil or criminal liability.
- (5) In this Act, unless the context requires otherwise—
 - (a) “inquiry” means an inquiry held, or to be held, under this Act,
 - (b) references to a “sheriff” in relation to an inquiry are to a sheriff of the sheriffdom in which the inquiry is, or is to be, held.

Commencement Information

II S. 1 in force at 15.6.2017 by S.S.I. 2017/155, [reg. 2](#) (with [reg. 5](#))

Changes to legislation:

Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016, Cross Heading: Inquiries into certain deaths is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 7A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 3\(1\)](#)
- Sch. A1 inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 3\(2\)](#)