



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, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 February 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\(2\)](#)