



Coroners Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 13

Inquests: special cases

13 Order to hold [F¹ investigation].

- (1) This section applies where, on an application by or under the authority of the Attorney-General, the High Court is satisfied as respects a coroner (“the coroner concerned”) either—
 - (a) that he refuses or neglects to hold an inquest [F² or an investigation] which ought to be held; or
 - (b) where an inquest [F³ or an investigation] has been held by him, that (whether by reason of fraud, rejection of evidence, irregularity of proceedings, insufficiency of inquiry, the discovery of new facts or evidence or otherwise) it is necessary or desirable in the interests of justice that [F⁴ an investigation (or as the case may be, another investigation)] should be held.
- (2) The High Court may—
 - (a) order an [F⁵ investigation under Part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009] to be held into the death either—
 - (i) by the coroner concerned; or
 - (ii) by [F⁶ a senior coroner, area coroner or assistant coroner in the same coroner area];
 - (b) order the coroner concerned to pay such costs of and incidental to the application as to the court may appear just; and
 - (c) where an inquest has been held, quash [F⁷ any inquisition on, or determination or finding made at] that inquest.

F⁸(3)

[F⁹(4) For the purposes of this section, “coroner” means a coroner appointed under section 1 of this Act, or a senior coroner, area coroner or assistant coroner appointed under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.]

Changes to legislation: Coroners Act 1988, Cross Heading: Inquests: special cases is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

F1 Word in s. 13 heading substituted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(4)**

F2 Words in s. 13(1)(a) inserted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(a)**

F3 Words in s. 13(1)(b) inserted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(b)(i)**

F4 Words in s. 13(1)(b) substituted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(b)(ii)**

F5 Words in s. 13(2)(a) substituted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(c)**

F6 Words in s. 13(2)(a)(ii) substituted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(d)**

F7 Words in s. 13(2)(c) substituted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(e)**

F8 Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by [Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 182(4)(g)(i), **Sch. 23 Pt. 1** (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

F9 S. 13(4) inserted (25.7.2013) by [The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1874\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(5)(f)**

^{F10}14 Inquest out of jurisdiction.

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Textual Amendments

F10 Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by [Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 182(4)(g)(i), **Sch. 23 Pt. 1** (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

^{F11}15 Inquest where body destroyed or irrecoverable.

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Textual Amendments

F11 Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by [Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 182(4)(g)(i), **Sch. 23 Pt. 1** (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

^{F13}16 Adjournment of inquest in [^{F12}event of criminal proceedings].

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Textual Amendments

- F12** S. 16: words in side note substituted (1.1.2000) by 1999 c. 22, s. 71(3) (with s. 107, Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 1999/3344, art. 2(b)
- F13** Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), s. 182(4)(g)(i), Sch. 23 Pt. 1 (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

^{F14}17 Provisions supplementary to section 16.

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Textual Amendments

- F14** Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), s. 182(4)(g)(i), Sch. 23 Pt. 1 (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

^{F16}^{F15}17A Adjournment of inquest in event of judicial inquiry.

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Textual Amendments

- F15** S. 17A inserted (1.1.2000) by S.I. 1999 c. 22, s. 71(1) (with s. 107, Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 1999/3344, art. 2(b)
- F16** Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), s. 182(4)(g)(i), Sch. 23 Pt. 1 (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

^{F17}18 Inquests into road deaths in London.

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Textual Amendments

- F17** Act repealed (12.2.2013 for the repeal of s. 5(2), 25.7.2013 except for the repeal of ss. 4A(8), 13(1)(2)) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), s. 182(4)(g)(i), Sch. 23 Pt. 1 (with s. 180, Sch. 22 Pt. 1); S.I. 2013/250, art. 2; S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(p) (with art. 3)

Changes to legislation:

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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. 13(5) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 2\(1\)](#)