



Coroners and Justice Act 2009

2009 CHAPTER 25

PART 1

CORONERS ETC

CHAPTER 1

INVESTIGATIONS INTO DEATHS

Discontinuance of investigation

4 Discontinuance where cause of death [^{F1}becomes clear before inquest]

- (1) A senior coroner who is responsible for conducting an investigation under this Part into a person's death must discontinue the investigation if—
- [^{F2}(a) the coroner is satisfied that the cause of death has become clear in the course of the investigation,
 - (aa) an inquest into the death has not yet begun, and]
 - (b) the coroner thinks that it is not necessary to continue the investigation.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the coroner has reason to suspect that the deceased—
- (a) died a violent or unnatural death, or
 - (b) died while in custody or otherwise in state detention.
- (3) Where a senior coroner discontinues an investigation into a death under this section—
- (a) the coroner may not hold an inquest into the death;
 - (b) no determination or finding under section 10(1) may be made in respect of the death.

This subsection does not prevent a fresh investigation under this Part from being conducted into the death.

Changes to legislation: Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 July 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](#)

- (4) A senior coroner who discontinues an investigation into a death under this section must, if requested to do so in writing by an interested person, give to that person as soon as practicable a written explanation as to why the investigation was discontinued.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 4 heading substituted (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), [ss. 39\(2\)](#), [51\(3\)](#)
- F2** S. 4(1)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 4(1)(a) (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), [ss. 39\(3\)](#), [51\(3\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 4 in force at 25.7.2013 by [S.I. 2013/1869](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

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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. 47(2)(kb) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 40](#)