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# Shared Insights

## Coroner's Question Time

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Mr Zak Golombeck - Area Coroner for  
Manchester City

Miss Louise Pinder - Assistant Coroner for

# Being an Interested Person (IP) is a right – not an obligation

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**The panel were asked what a Trust should do when they are not made aware they are an IP or are not sure whether they have been offered IP status and therefore do not know whether to have legal representation at the inquest?**

- The panel advised that the moment a Trust is made aware of an inquest you should write to the Coroner's office and ask if you are being offered IP status.
- If so, ask the reason why you have been offered IP status.
- IP status is not about culpability, so this doesn't automatically mean you need legal representation. It is therefore worth clarifying with the Coroner why you have been offered IP status and also asking whether the Coroner has identified the key issues and whether the family have any questions or concerns that are likely to be addressed at the inquest.

[Section 47\(2\) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009](#) defines an IP. Organisations will usually be offered IP status at an



# Statutory duties of the Coroner: Prevention of Future Deaths Report continued

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What about [Regulation 28\(3\)](#) which says *"A [PFD] report may not be made until the Coroner has considered all the documents, evidence and information that in the opinion of the Coroner are relevant to the investigation."*

Would this not prompt the Coroner to hear evidence from the organisation about PFD issues before issuing a PFD Report?

- Regulation 28(3) is about the Coroner's statutory duty

# Statutory duties of the Coroner

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## What are the Coroner's statutory duties?

- Coroner's must determine the medical cause of death and the particulars set out in the [Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953](#).
- The purpose of the inquest is to ascertain who the

# The role of a witness

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**How can Trusts help witnesses to understand what their role is. For example, when witnesses are asked to provide an overview report going beyond their own factual involvement?**

- The quality of written statements and reports is really important as this will form the basis of the witness'

# The role of a witness continued

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## The Panel's Top Tips for Witnesses

- Be familiar with the clinical notes
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# Resources

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## Resources

Browne Jacobson have produced a range of resources to help organisations and witnesses involved in the inquest process, which are all free of charge on our website:

- [Inquest Guide for Clinical Witnesses](#)
- [Writing Statements for an Inquest](#)
- [Checklist when preparing for remote participation in an inquest hearing](#)
- [Mock inquest training video and other inquest resources](#)

NHS Resolution have also produced some free resources which you can access [here](#).

Finally, there are still spaces available on our next [Mock Inquest Training Course](#) which starts in September. If you have a number of people who would like to attend please contact [Nicola.Evans@brownejacobson.com](mailto:Nicola.Evans@brownejacobson.com) to discuss block booking rates.





