



Coronial Reform – Past, Present and Future

The ancient office of coroner has existed since at least 1194 during the reign of Richard I. The duties of the medieval coroner were varied and far more extensive than those carried out by the modern coroner in the 21st Century.

Up until the Coroner's and Justice Act 2009 which came into force on the 25 July 2013 the legal basis for Coronial Jurisdiction essentially comprised slight modifications to Victorian legislation. The Coroner's Rules of 1984 and the Coroner's Act of 1988 were a reflection of this and have now been superseded by the Coroner's and Justice Act 2009. This Act which has not come with full implementation of all recommendations, has resulted in considerable changes to the way Coroners work. The Office of Chief Coroner has been created and it may well be that Medical Examiners will be set up who will scrutinise all deaths.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the function of the Office of Coroner;
- Understand the purpose of Inquest proceedings;
- Understand the recent reform culminating in the Coroner's and Justice Act 2009;
- Understand which cases require referral to the Coroner;
- Appreciate when a Coroner must sit with a jury;
- Understand the differences between a Common Law or Jamieson Inquests and enhanced or Middleton Inquests and engagement of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Webinar will show the evolution of the Office of Coroner up until the present day and will highlight important changes that have come into place with the inception of the Act.

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Paul Marks is currently HM Senior Coroner for the City of Hull and County of the East Riding of Yorkshire. He initially started training in forensic medicine then moved into a surgical career and has been a Consultant Neurosurgeon for 25 years. He developed a parallel career by reading Law at Cardiff University and is the last medically qualified Coroner to be appointed to a full time jurisdiction. He is Vice President of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine and holds chairs in Neurosurgery and Law.