

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Private Secretary to Minister of Justice



Department of

**Justice**

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Your ref:  
Our ref: COR/992/2010

Mr Jeff Dudgeon

[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)

30<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Mr Dudgeon,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November. The Minister of Justice has noted your further comments and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

In my letter of 13 August, I advised that there are currently no plans to publish the findings of Inquests on the Coroners Service website. The position has not altered since my earlier response. The risk of causing further distress to families and others close to the deceased remains a real possibility which we think outweighs any general public interest.

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The Coroners have been consulted and have advised that "any properly interested person" can apply to the Coroners Service, either in writing or in person, to obtain access to documents entered in evidence and that the findings, having been given in open court, should be made available on request.

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Your Freedom of Information (FOI) request was answered in full. The information was considered to be already in the public domain and it was felt that these findings in particular did not give rise to any section 38 (health and safety) implications for the families.

Thank you also for advising us that there are issues with the downloading of publications from the Coroners website. NICTS are currently looking at ways to rectify this in order to make the information more accessible. However, in the interim an explanation of how to access publications has been added to the web page.

The Minister has asked me to thank you again for setting out your views on these issues.

*Yours sincerely,  
Mairaid*

**MAIRAIID McMAHON**  
**Private Secretary**

