



THE BIRMINGHAM INQUESTS (1974)

Coroner: His Honour Sir Peter Thornton QC

RULING ON UNDERTAKING

Introduction

1. West Midlands Police (WMP) have applied by way of a written request dated 30 April 2019 for a limited release from their signed undertaking to the Coroner in the Birmingham Inquests (1974). The undertaking provided that material disclosed to Interested Persons would only be used for the purpose of the inquests. WMP seek a release from that undertaking limited to the following: provision to WMP of a full copy of all evidence secured by the inquests; use of that material for investigation into criminal offences, including the 21 offences of murder, and any consequential legal proceedings.
2. In the exercise of my discretion I grant the application. WMP are released from their undertaking in the inquests to the limited extent requested.
3. It is clearly in the interests of justice that the material disclosed to Interested Persons should be made available for the ongoing investigations of the WMP. The amount of material is considerable, some 29,000 pages. If any of it is of assistance to WMP in this context, so much the better.
4. Other Interested Parties in the inquests have been notified of WMP's application. None has objected to the limited release of WMP's undertaking.
5. For these reasons the application is granted. WMP will continue to keep the material safe and confidential, subject, however, to the specific and limited purposes requested.

HH SIR PETER THORNTON QC

8 May 2019