



Pre-Inquest Review (PIR)

Your Guide



What is a pre-inquest review (PIR) hearing?

If a case is complex, then sometimes the coroner will hold a pre inquest review hearing (also known as a 'PIR' or a 'PIR hearing').

A PIR is not part of the inquest itself, it is an administrative hearing, held at the coroner's court, where the coroner deals with various procedural issues. The hearing is open to the public and press.

The coroner will not hear evidence from witnesses at the PIR.

What sorts of things will be discussed / decided at the PIR?

The coroner will usually send out an agenda before the PIR; the agenda will indicate the sorts of things that will be discussed at the PIR - typically this will include:

- The 'scope' of the inquest (what matters will be covered and sometimes indicating what matters will not be covered by the inquest)
- Any further evidence that may be required (documents and statements)
- Which witnesses will have to attend court to give evidence in person, and whose evidence can be read out instead
- Whether a jury is required
- How long the inquest is likely to take and when that hearing should take place

More information

If you would like more information about any part of the inquest process, then a good place to start is the '[Guide to coroner services for bereaved people](#)' produced by the Ministry of Justice. Our website is also available at avon-coroner.com

ATTENDANCE

WHO ATTENDS A PIR?

The coroner will invite all the interested persons to attend the PIR. Often interested persons will send a legal representative to the hearing instead of (or as well as) coming in person.

ARE YOU OBLIGED TO ATTEND?

You do not have to attend the PIR, but you can attend if you wish to do so. If you have a solicitor then you may want them to attend the PIR either instead of you, or with you.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT THE PIR?

You (or your legal representative) can give the coroner your views about the issues that are in the agenda, and about any other matters that are relevant to the inquest, but ultimately it is for the coroner to decide how the inquest will proceed. So, for example the coroner will decide on the scope and witnesses.