

## Family Law Inquiry and Inquests

4PB has significant expertise in Inquests and Inquiries. In recent years, members have appeared in many of the leading family law inquiry and inquests, including, the Hillsborough Inquest, the Inquest into the death of Ellie Butler and various strands of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

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### What is a public inquiry?

- In simple terms, a public inquiry is an investigation into a matter of public concern.
- Public inquiries are convened by the Government to look into the specific facts and circumstances of a particular matter.
- The purpose of an inquiry is to establish facts, ascertain what has happened and why and to prevent any recurrence of the same events.
- Public inquiries are chaired by a senior official (usually a judge) who will lead the inquiry. All parties will be involved in reviewing the documents and evidence. It is the responsibility of the chair to publish the conclusions that are reached and to make recommendations.
- Members of 4PB accept instructions on a wide range of public inquiry matters, with experience acting for individuals, public bodies and as Counsel to the Inquiry.

### What is an inquest?

- An inquest is a judicial inquiry in common law jurisdictions, most commonly into the circumstances surrounding a death. Inquests are usually held when the circumstances of a death are unusual, violent, sudden or unexplained.
- An inquest will be opened by a coroner when the cause of death cannot be ascertained following a post-mortem. The coroner will decide the scope of the inquest, but this will usually involve determining who the deceased was, and where, when and how they died.
- Members of 4PB have wide expertise in representing families, local authorities and other interested parties at all stages of inquests.

#### What 4PB offers

- 4PB's expert barristers provide:
  - Early advice on strategy.
  - Assistance with all 'pre-hearing' issues, including managing significant disclosure exercises.
  - Representation at family law inquiries and inquests.
- Members have appeared in the following inquests and inquiries in recent years:

#### **Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan.**

Michael Edwards is currently instructed by the Ministry of Defence investigating alleged war crimes committed by British forces in Afghanistan

#### **IICSA: Lambeth Council**

Alex Verdán KC, Cleo Perry KC and Andrew Powell represented LB Lambeth

#### **IICSA: Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks**

Jane Rayson and Charlotte Baker represented Bristol City Council  
Cleo Perry KC, Andrew Powell and Harry Langford represented LB Tower Hamlets

#### **IICSA: Accountability and Reparations**

Cleo Perry KC represented LB Tower Hamlets

## **IICSA: Residential Schools**

Jane Rayson represented Bristol City Council

## **IICSA: Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings**

Cleo Perry KC represented LB Tower Hamlets

## **IICSA: Institutional Responses to Allegations Concerning Lord Janner**

Alex Verdan KC, Sam King KC, Michael Edwards and Pippa Sanger represented Leicestershire County Council

## **Ellie Butler Inquest**

Alex Verdan KC and Michael Edwards represented LB Sutton

## **Hillsborough Inquest**

Professor Jo Delahunty KC acted on behalf of 75 families

## **Isle of Man Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People**

Alex Verdan KC was Counsel to the Inquiry; Ceri White acted as his junior

## **Victoria Climbié Inquiry**

Alex Verdan KC represented LB Enfield

## **Assistant Coroner, Mid Kent and Medway 2010–12, Hertfordshire 2011–14**

Alison Grief KC

## **Specialist Inquests & Inquiries Barristers**



Alex Verdan KC  
Call: 1987 | Silk: 2006



Rex Howling KC  
Call: 1991 | Silk: 2011



Alison Grief KC  
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2015



Sam King KC  
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2018



Cleo Perry KC  
Call: 2000 | Silk: 2020



Joy Brereton KC  
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2022



Jane Rayson  
Call: 1982



Ceri White  
Call: 2002



Francesca Dowse  
Call: 2004



Greg Davies  
Call: 2005



Amean Elgadhly  
Call: 2008



Andrew Powell  
Call: 2008



Michael Edwards  
Call: 2010



Charlotte Baker  
Call: 2014



Mani Singh Basi  
Call: 2014



Harry Langford  
Call: 2014



Pippa Sanger  
Call: 2015



Lucy Logan Green  
Call: 2018



Ralph Marnham  
Call: 2019



Katherine Broger-  
Bareham  
Call: 2021



Alexandra Wilson  
Call: 2018  
Associate Tenant