

IN THE BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL CORONER'S COURT
HIS HONOUR RICHARD FOSTER
NOMINATED PURSUANT TO SCHEDULE 10 CJA 2009

**INQUESTS TOUCHING UPON THE DEATHS
OF PATIENTS OF MR IAN PATERSON FOR
TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER**

PRONOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATIONS AND
INQUEST TOUCHING THE DEATH OF JOAN GREEN

As part of the wider process concerning the deaths of former patients of Mr Paterson, deaths continue to be referred to me for consideration. That process remains ongoing and has resulted in a number of further coronial investigations being commenced and new inquests opened as individual cases have been considered.

It was through that process that the death of Mrs Joan Green came to my attention. Preliminary enquiries were undertaken in relation to the circumstances of her death, including consideration of the available medical evidence. In the course of those enquiries, matters arose which were considered to require referral to the police.

I have now been informed that the police have decided to commence a criminal investigation into the circumstances of Mrs Green's death.

In light of that development, I have considered the appropriate course for the coronial proceedings. The Chief Coroner's guidance

(No.33) explains that the law concerning the suspension of an investigation and the adjournment of an inquest pursuant to Schedule 1, Part 1, Paragraphs (5) and (6) the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 is based upon the premise that investigations into a death should not be duplicated. There is an inevitable overlap between the matters which would otherwise require investigation by the Coroner and those which are now the subject of the police investigation.

The appropriate course is for the coronial investigation to stand back while the police investigation proceeds. The inquest was recently opened in the coronial jurisdiction of Staffordshire, in which Mrs Green died and has since been transferred to this jurisdiction. I will accordingly formally adjourn the inquest into Mrs Green's death today.

The coronial investigation will not presently be progressed, and the position will be kept under review as the police investigation proceeds.

This is a procedural course reflecting the fact that there is now a police investigation and the need to avoid duplication between the two processes. I have reached no concluded view as to the circumstances of Mrs Green's death, and nothing should be inferred in that respect from the decision to adjourn the inquest.

Finally, this development relates to Mrs Green's death only. The wider process concerning the deaths of former patients of Mr Paterson remains ongoing, and the other investigations and inquests will continue to be considered and progressed on their individual evidence.

His Honour Richard Foster
HM Coroner
5th October 2026