

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).

4PB has significant expertise in Public Inquiries and Inquests. 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, various strands of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and, currently, the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan.

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 Verdan 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 Elgadhy
Call: 2008



Andrew Powell
Call: 2008



Michael Edwards
Call: 2010



Indu Kumar
Call: 2012



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