



The Guildford Pub Bombings 1974

A spokesperson for KRW, solicitor to the family of Ann Hamilton, said:

“The treatment of the family of the Ann Hamilton, killed in the Guildford Pub Bombing 1974 *50 years ago*, by Surrey Police continues to be contemptuous. Having been excluded from the resume inquest into the death of their loved one, they continue to be treated with cynicism by the criminal justice system. The recent revelation of ‘new’ evidence which will not be investigated – and we ask when that decision was taken and how long this evidence has been in the possession of Surrey Police? – has still not been explained and questions asked by KRW of the Surrey Police and the Security Minister at the Home Office remain unacknowledged let alone answered.

A referral to the Surrey PCC remains unanswered prior to the elections of 2 May 2024. Both the PCC and Surrey Police appear to be waiting for these difficult and uncomfortable matter and questions and concerns to lifted like a heavy burden on 1 May 2024 when the contested and opposed Legacy Act 2024 comes into force.

The Legacy Act is subject to challenge to the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal and possibly to the UKSC. The Legacy Act is the subject of an inter-State application made by the Irish government to the European Cout of Human Rights regarding its compatibility with the ECHR. The Legacy Act may be repealed by a Labour administration should it be in the party manifesto.

The investigatory mechanism of the Legacy Act – the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) – has no power, jurisdiction or authority until 1st May 2024 and will not be operational (in terms of ‘taking requests’) until summer of 2024 according to the FAQs on its website. However, Surrey police and senior commissioners – Sir Declan Morgan and Peter Sheridan - have agreed *with Surrey Police not the family of Ann Hamilton* – for the ICRIR to meet the Hamilton family. The ICRIR has no statutory basis on which to offer this save in the broken spirit of the Legacy Act.

Any engagement after 1st May 2024 on Conflict-related related criminal investigations is to be made by way of a notification by a Chief Constable to the SSNIO. Surrey Police sought clarification from the Home Office as to the required statutory process of notification and, we assume, have not received a response save to be aware of continuing investigatory obligations in these matters on police forces.

Therefore, there is no process pre-1st May 2024 to make a notification. There is therefore no statutory basis for any pre-1st May 2024 engagement between Surrey Police and ICRIR (when in fact that ‘engagement’ would be required by a notification to the SSNIO), particularly when the engagement involves an offer to meet the family of Ann Hamilton which have not been consulted on any of this and continue to have serious questions about the conduct of Surrey Police in 1974 and in 2024. There is statutory basis for Surrey Police to request a review of a criminal investigation into a Conflict-related case. The family of Ann Hamilton can request a review after 1st May 2024 but a) they cannot do so until then b) they may not wish to do so c) the ICRIR has the discretion



to decide on whether to request that request for a review by the family – after 1st May 2024 and when it is operational in the summer of 2024 (according to its website).

One of the core points of opposition to the Legacy Act was the dead hand of the SSNIO over these crucial access to truth justice and accountability principles – now Surrey Police and the senior officers of the ICIR have appeared to have ignored the ‘authority’ of SSNIO entirely). Again, the family of Ann Hamilton are left with more anger and more questions.” ENDS

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