

IN THE CORONERS COURT
AT CHRISTCHURCH
(IN-CHAMBERS)

CSU-2019-CCH-000165 to
CSU-2019-CCH 000214;
CSU-2019-CCH-000326

I TE KŌTI KAITIROTIRO MATEWHAWHATI
KI TE ŌTAUTAHU
[I TE TARI]

UNDER

THE CORONERS ACT 2006

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

Inquiries into the deaths of 51 people
in relation to the 15 March 2019
Christchurch Masjidain Attack

Date: 12 May 2022

MINUTE OF CORONER B WINDLEY AS TO
TIMETABLING OF PRE-INQUEST CONFERENCING AND
PROVISIONAL INQUEST HEARING DATE FOR FIRST PHASE ISSUES

- [1] As advised in my decision on scope issued on 28 April 2022, I have decided to convene an inquest hearing as part of my inquiry into the issues related to the emergency response and initial investigation of the events of 15 March 2019. Those issues are Issues 1-8 (inclusive) as described in *Appendix A* to the scope decision (**First Phase Issues**).
- [2] This Minute is intended to provide counsel and unrepresented Interested Parties with notice of upcoming pre-inquest conferencing dates and a provisional date for the inquest hearing into the First Phase Issues (**First Phase Inquest**).

Provisional First Phase Inquest Date

- [3] The First Phase Inquest is provisionally set down to take place for the three weeks between **Monday 17 October 2022** and **Friday 4 November 2022**. In recognition of Jum'ah Prayer on Fridays, the inquest will endeavour to not sit on those days. The inquest will not sit on Labour Day Monday 24 October 2022.

- [4] As I alluded to in my Minute of 2 December 2021 in reference to setting down new dates for the scope hearing, ordinarily a coroner would endeavour to confirm availability of Interested Parties and their counsel (if they have one) prior to setting down dates. The scale of this inquiry, including the large number of Interested Parties, likely witnesses and attendees, the availability of adequate court facilities that will be required within the Christchurch Law Courts, security considerations, likely school holiday constraints that immediate families with school-aged children will encounter, and the widespread desire to progress the inquiry in a timely manner, combine to create a significant challenge in securing a date for the inquest hearing to be heard.
- [5] In seeking to balance those considerations, I have endeavoured to identify a block of time towards the end of 2022 that ought to allow sufficient time for the Interested Parties, participants, and the Court to secure availability. I acknowledge the provisional inquest dates are unlikely to be ideal for all but there are few alternatives short of setting down into the new year which will then confront a number of the same challenges faced in setting down the scope hearing in the early part of this year. I am conscious too that it may yet be necessary to convene further inquest hearings into some or all of the other issues for inquiry and that it is in the interests of the Interested Parties, and this inquiry, that timely progress is made.
- [6] With that in mind, counsel and unrepresented Interested Parties are asked to confirm their availability for the First Phase Inquest on the provisional dates identified.

Pre-inquest conferencing

- [7] In preparation for the First Phase Inquest pre-inquest conferencing will take place to address and progress a range of matters. That conferencing is administrative in nature and is not a forum for hearing substantive matters, nor is it open to the general public or media. Pre-inquest conference Minutes will be issued ahead of and following each conference which will set out the matters to be discussed and subsequent directions made.
- [8] Counsel and unrepresented Interested Parties are expected to attend unless excused from attending. Attendance by stand-in counsel will be permitted where necessary provided that stand-in counsel is in a position to give any necessary undertakings.
- [9] Pre-inquest conferencing will be conducted by MS Teams on the following dates/times:
- (a) 9:00am – 10:00am Thursday **9 June 2022**;
 - (b) 9:00am – 10:00am Thursday **14 July 2022**

- [10] Access details and a Minute ahead of the First Pre-Inquest Conference will be distributed by the case manager in coming weeks.

Distribution

- [11] This Minute is to be sent to all counsel and all unrepresented Interested Parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Windley", written in a cursive style.

CORONER B WINDLEY