



Coroners and Justice Act 2009

2009 CHAPTER 25

PART 1

CORONERS ETC

CHAPTER 1

INVESTIGATIONS INTO DEATHS

Discontinuance of investigation

4 Discontinuance where cause of death [^{F1}becomes clear before inquest]

- (1) A senior coroner who is responsible for conducting an investigation under this Part into a person's death must discontinue the investigation if—
- [^{F2}(a) the coroner is satisfied that the cause of death has become clear in the course of the investigation,
- (aa) an inquest into the death has not yet begun, and]
- (b) the coroner thinks that it is not necessary to continue the investigation.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the coroner has reason to suspect that the deceased—
- (a) died a violent or unnatural death, or
- (b) died while in custody or otherwise in state detention.
- (3) Where a senior coroner discontinues an investigation into a death under this section—
- (a) the coroner may not hold an inquest into the death;
- (b) no determination or finding under section 10(1) may be made in respect of the death.

This subsection does not prevent a fresh investigation under this Part from being conducted into the death.

Changes to legislation: Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Cross Heading: Discontinuance of investigation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (4) A senior coroner who discontinues an investigation into a death under this section must, if requested to do so in writing by an interested person, give to that person as soon as practicable a written explanation as to why the investigation was discontinued.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [s. 4 heading](#) substituted (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), [ss. 39\(2\)](#), [51\(3\)](#)
- F2** [S. 4\(1\)\(a\)\(aa\)](#) substituted for [s. 4\(1\)\(a\)](#) (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), [ss. 39\(3\)](#), [51\(3\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I1** [S. 4](#) in force at 25.7.2013 by [S.I. 2013/1869](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 11A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 1A inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(2\)](#)