

Ruling in respect of Sergeant Chapman's evidence

The issue

1. Although I well understand how little evidence there presently is regarding the experiences and movement of Henry Burke, the issue in this phase of the inquests is straightforward. Has Mr Chapman any relevant evidence to give about the experiences and movements of Mr Burke which require his attendance at the hearing?
2. Mr Mansfield has understandably drawn my attention to what might well be unsatisfactory elements in Mr Chapman's account. While they could conceivably go to the topic of the police response to the disaster, I cannot see any realistic prospect of them throwing any light on what happened to Henry Burke. There is nothing at all to suggest Mr Chapman had, let alone recalls, any contact with Mr Burke.
3. In the circumstances, I cannot see any justification for calling Mr Chapman.
4. I very much hope that further evidence may come to light which does go to the experiences and movements of Mr Burke.

John Goldring
30 October 2015