

OLIVE MAYHEW

Olive Mayhew is 88. She is unfit to give evidence. She has made a witness statement. She has answered a questionnaire. She has given evidence at previous inquests. She added to her original evidence when she gave evidence at the previous inquests. Among other things, she speaks of a group of fans drinking outside the stadium, clearing up what for her was a uniquely large number of beer cans and of fans urinating "all over". Her evidence goes to the behaviour of some of the fans outside the ground.

It is submitted that I should not allow Olive Mayhew's evidence to be read. It is said, and I put it very shortly, first that her original statement was embellished by the evidence she subsequently gave; second, that other witnesses can give similar evidence and, third, that reading her evidence will unnecessarily prolong the inquests.

I have no doubt that it is appropriate for her evidence to be read, as Mr. Hill has spelled out in his submissions. Her evidence is relevant. She is unable to be called. Rule 23 of the Coroners Rules 2013 apply. In the exercise of my discretion, I order that her statement be read. What precisely is to be read should be agreed between Counsel to the Inquests and the Interested Persons.