
The Bloody Sunday Inquiry

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PRESS NOTICE

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TRIBUNAL RULING

The Bloody Sunday Inquiry Tribunal has today released rulings in respect of:

- *An application by INQ 0005 for screening during evidence*
- *An application by INQ 2225 for screening during evidence*

In separate applications, both soldier witnesses applied for screening on the grounds that were they to give evidence to the Inquiry unscreened then they would face an appreciably increased risk of terrorist attack.

In particular it was submitted that were they to give evidence unscreened there would be a real risk that their anonymity would be compromised and that it would be possible to trace them.

The applications were in two parts. The first was open and the second confidential. The basis for the fears expressed in the second parts cannot be stated without defeating the purpose of the application.

The Ruling

Taking into account a security assessment made by the relevant security organisation and the reasons stated in the second parts of each application, the Tribunal have concluded that there are special, personal circumstances which are likely to destroy the anonymity of both soldier witnesses should they give their evidence unscreened. Both applications were therefore granted.

The witnesses will, however, remain visible to the Tribunal, Counsel to the Tribunal and the legal representatives of the interested parties.

Full details of the judgement have been posted on the Inquiry website under Rulings and Judgements.

Notes to Editors

1. For further information please contact the Inquiry's Chief Press Secretary, Ivan Bailey, on 020 7654 5333 (mobile 07715 001 361).