

19th December, 89.

AMG LB 536072

I 521/89/DG

Professor A. M. Geddes,  
Department of Communicable and Tropical Diseases,  
East Birmingham Hospital,  
Bordesley Green East,  
Birmingham  
B9 5ST

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Professor Geddes,

GRO-A

Thank you for your letter which I received with sympathy for all concerned. I have in fact held about half a dozen such inquests in the last year or two and there has been no publicity though for some reason they took a contrary view following the inquest on Mr. GRO-A. I wrote to Mrs. GRO-A afterwards and I believe the letter I sent explains the action that I have taken. I enclose a copy for your interest.

Enquiries with coroner colleagues reveal that there is a varying attitude to these unfortunate cases and some coroners hold inquests and some do not. I have therefore written to Doctor John BURTON who is the secretary of the Coroner's Society suggesting that he co-ordinates a policy now that Mr. Justice OGNALL'S tribunal has been set up to ensure that coroners treat these cases as Death by Natural Causes and no inquest is held.

Thank you for raising the matter.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

H M Coroner.  
Birmingham and Solihull Districts.