

Medical Examiner System - chronology

2003

"..the Medical Examiner system in England and Wales was introduced as a result of the Government's response to the recommendations following Dame Janet Smith's recommendations in her third report from the Inquiry into the murders committed by Harold Shipman." [INQ0014570 Statement of Dr Alan Fletcher para. 12]

Dame Janet Smith's third report: "Death Certification and the Investigation of Deaths by Coroners" published 14 July 2003.

2004

March 2004 Home Office publish position paper "Reforming the Coroner and Death Certification Service."

"This Home Office position paper proposed that all deaths be referred to a second certifier, who would be a medical examiner: a qualified doctor employed by the new coroner service." [INQ0014570 Statement of Dr Alan Fletcher para. 14]

2008

"On 1 March 2008, a pilot scheme for a medical examiner system started in Sheffield." [INQ0014570 Statement of Dr Alan Fletcher para.17]

2016-2018

Consultations on medical examiner system

2019

Dr Alan Fletcher appointed as National Medical Examiner for England and Wales.

2019/20

"In 2019/2020, the National Medical Examiner's national and regional teams were appointed." [INQ0014570 Statement of Dr Alan Fletcher para.25]

2021

"In June 2021, all acute NHS Trusts reported that they had established medical examiner offices." [INQ0014570 Statement of Dr Alan Fletcher para.28]

2024

9 September 2024 Statutory Medical Examiner System came into force.

Dr Alan Flecher became National Medical Examiner for England and Wales (Statutory position)

Inquiry Legal Team

9 January 2025