

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 08.12.2025

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Ceredigion Coroners service update

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide an update on developments within the Coroner's service

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: n/a

BACKGROUND:

On 15.7.25, the Committee considered issues relating to the Coroner's service:

<https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/s9136/Coroner%20Update%20Report%202025%20-%20July%202025.pdf?LLL=0>

Local Authority Coroners Report:

The Senior Coroner is required to provide a Local Authority report to the Council to be published on the Council's website and includes relevant statistics on current/concluded cases (with comparison figures for previous years), an update on Coroner work and relevant issues, a summary of the Coroner's team and staffing arrangements, and any future plans. This is shown at **Appendix 1**.

CURRENT SITUATION:

1)Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return 2023

The Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return for 2023 was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for information (**Appendix 2**). The return will be published on the Council' website separately.

2)Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return 2024

The Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return for 2024 was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for information (**Appendix 3**). The return will be published on the Council' website separately.

3)Report of the Chief Coroner to the Lord Chancellor: Annual Report for 2024

The Chief Coroner prepares an annual report

[Report of the Chief Coroner to the Lord Chancellor - Annual Report for 2024](#)

The key messages are set out in **Appendix 4**.

There is a reference to Ceredigion:

"Cases over 12 months 2024, reporting period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024:

- Ceredigion:31
By comparison:
- Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire:54

4) Inquests

During the period 15.7.2025 – 23.11.2025:

22 inquests held, of which:

- Inquests in writing held: 18
- Inquests in person concluded: 4

Outstanding 12m+: 21

5) Coroners/Assistant Coroners Pay

Coroners pay for 25/26 was reported to Cabinet on 7.10.25 - [Ceredigion County Council](#) and Coroners Pay for 26/27 is set to be presented to Cabinet on 2.12.25- [Ceredigion County Council](#).

6) Hillsborough Law- Public Office (Accountability) Bill –

[Hillsborough Law Bill - GOV.UK](#)

<https://cms-lawnow.com/en/ealerts/2025/09/the-public-office-accountability-bill-and-its-implications-for-public-sector-transparency-and-misconduct>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c92621de855c02ab517b3d/Duty_of_Candour_Fact_Sheet.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c923ac5e09a4a59af0bf11/MiPO_POA_Bill_Fact_Sheet.pdf

The Public Office (Accountability) Bill (otherwise known as the Hillsborough Law):

- places a new legal duty on public servants to act truthfully and fully support investigations into the state, ensuring wrongdoing is not concealed and delivering justice for victims.
- replaces the current Misconduct in Public Office offence.
- Bereaved families will benefit from non-means-tested legal help and representation for inquests.
- new duty on public authorities to ensure any spend on legal advice and representation at inquests is necessary and proportionate. The duty will also guide the conduct of lawyers at the Coroner court, ensuring families are always treated with sensitivity and respect.

A letter from the Chief Coroner dated 16/9/25 is attached (**Appendix 5**).

The Coroner has had sight of this report.

Has an Integrated Impact No Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why

This report does not represent a change in policy or **WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:**

Long term: N/A

Integration: N/A

Collaboration: N/A

Involvement: N/A

Prevention: N/A

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That the Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

Reporting of the annual information relating to deaths reported to the Ceredigion Senior Coroner, and provide statistical data.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Authority Coroners Report

Appendix 2 – Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return 2023

Appendix 3 – Ceredigion Coroner Statistical Return 2024

Appendix 4 – Annual Report 2024 – Chief Coroner – Extracts & Key Messages

Appendix 5 – Public Office (Accountability) Bill- Letter from the Chief Coroner dated 16/9/25

Reporting Officer:

Elin Prysor

Designation:

Corporate Lead Officer - Legal & Governance (and Monitoring Officer)

Date of Report:

02.12.2025

Acronyms:

N/A