

Gorput - Charles Farming

SUBMISSIONS AS TO VERDICT

Dear Charles: Here is a draft of a document for your approval. Following your instructions that the Coroner should be asked to leave a verdict of unlawful killing as an option for the Jury, I have included the option in these submissions. There are two bases upon which a Jury might return a verdict of unlawful killing; firstly because they find an individual grossly negligent, and secondly because they find her to be a murderer, i.e. acting with the intention of causing death. While I am pessimistic about the Coroner allowing the first basis to go before the jury, I am very pessimistic about the Coroner allowing the second to go before the jury. Currently I understand that the Coroner is thinking of inviting the Jury to return a narrative verdict which is non-judgemental which, in effect, would mean that the verdict would record no wrongdoing on anybody's part. I will endeavour to persuade him otherwise. The prospects of doing so will be increased if he considers that we are taking a realistic approach to the question of verdict in the light of the evidence before the Jury. Please could you confirm whether you are content with the submissions in relation as drafted: if so, I will finalise for distribution.

Many thanks, Code A