STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No. 1799

CORONERS

The West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) Order 2004

Made - - - -	*12th July 2004*
Laid before Parliament	*13th July 2004*
Coming into force - -	*1st August 2004*

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 1(1A), 4(1) and 36(4)(b) of the Coroners Act 1988(**a**), and after the consultation required by section 4(1) of that Act, hereby makes the following Order:

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) Order 2004.

Commencement and application

2.—(1) This Order shall come into force on 1st August 2004.

(2) This Order shall not have effect in relation to any inquest begun before the day on which it comes into force or to any post-mortem examination which, before that day, a coroner has directed or requested a medical practitioner to make.

Amalgamation of coroners' districts

3. The existing Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall coroners' districts shall be amalgamated to form one coroner's district to be known as the Black Country Coroner's District.

4. Accordingly, the County of West Midlands shall be divided into four coroners' districts and each such district shall consist of the area specified in column 2 of the Schedule to this Order opposite to the name of the coroner's district in question as given in column 1 of that Schedule.

5. The Council of the Borough of Sandwell shall be the relevant council within the meaning of section 1 (1A) of the Coroners Act 1988 for the Black Country Coroner's District as constituted by article 3 above.

Revocation

6. The West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) Order 1974 (**b**) is hereby revoked.

(**a**) 1988 c. 13.
(**b**) S.I. 1974/583, as amended by S.I. 1983/319, S.I. 1988/1797 and S.I. 1999/1990

Home Office
12th July 2004

Paul Goggins
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

SCHEDULE

Article 4

1. *Name of Coroner's district*	*2.* *Areas comprised in coroner's district*
Birmingham & Solihull	The City of Birmingham and the Borough of Solihull.
Black Country	The Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.
Coventry	The City of Coventry.
Wolverhampton	The City of Wolverhampton.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

The County of West Midlands was divided into 9 coroners' districts by the West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) Order 1974. Two of these, Birmingham and Solihull, were amalgamated by the West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) (Amendment) Order 1983 and the relevant authority for the purposes of appointing the coroner was determined as the City of Birmingham Council by the Coroners' Districts (Designation of Relevant Councils) Order 1985. Two more districts, Dudley North and Dudley South, were amalgamated by the West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) (Amendment) Order 1988. Two more districts, Sandwell North and Sandwell South, were amalgamated by the West Midlands (Coroners' Districts) (Amendment) Order 1999.

Article 3 of this Order amalgamates the districts of Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall into one coroner's district, to be known as the Black Country Coroner's District. The areas of all the coroners' districts within West Midlands are set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Article 5 provides, under section 1 (1A) of the Coroners Act 1988, for the Council of the Borough of Sandwell to be the relevant council for the purposes of appointing the Black Country coroner.

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