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## Inquest to be held into Maze LVF death

(Suzanne McGonagle, [Irish News](#))

An inquest into the death of a murder suspect found strangled in his cell almost 10 years ago could be held in December, if the whereabouts of men imprisoned along with him are established.

Coroner John Leckey yesterday (Monday) asked for police to ascertain who was in prison with David Keys when he died in the Maze Prison near Lisburn in 1998.

The Belfast coroner wants the whereabouts of men imprisoned with him to be established ahead of the inquest into his death.

David Keys (26) from Banbridge was found hanging in his cell in the LVF wing of the prison on March 15 1998.

However, a postmortem examination revealed he had died from strangulation before he was hanged at the window in an apparent bid to make it look like a suicide.

At the time, Keys was on remand awaiting trial for a LVF double murder in Poyntzpass 12 days earlier.

He was being held on charges connected to the double murder of Catholic man Damien Trainor and his Protestant friend Philip Allen.

The pair were gunned down at the Railway Bar in Poyntzpass, and it was rumoured that Keys may have been co-operating with the police investigation.

At a preliminary hearing in Belfast yesterday, Mr Leckey conceded that there may be difficulties in obtaining evidence from other prisoners on the wing at the time of Keys death.

He said he was going to ask police to establish who was in prison with him when he was killed.

The coroner said he was aware that some prisoners were now deceased, but that he wanted the whereabouts of the others – including some men who had been sent back to jail – to be established.

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Two men were charged with the murder of Keys, but the case collapsed when a key prosecution witness refused to give more evidence.

Yesterday, Mr Leckey spoke about the main prosecution witness.

He said: "It wouldn't solve the problem if he said 'What I told you was a tissue of lies' or 'I was just fabricating evidence."

"Nonetheless if he says 'I know nothing' technically his initial statement could be put to him along with his present statement and he would be open to cross examination."

Mr Leckey said he hoped an inquest could be held in early December.

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