

**DEATH IN CUSTODY INQUEST OPENS INTO THE DEATH OF 23 YEAR OLD JAMIE BURTON INQUEST TO START ON Thursday 31 JULY 2003**

10am 31<sup>st</sup> July 2003

Sitting with HM Coroner for East and West Cornwall, Dr Emma Carlyon

Held at Launceston Magistrates' Court Dunheved Road Launceston. Cornwall. PL15 9JE

Over two years after the death of Jamie Burton sees the resumption of his inquest. The inquest will commence at 10am on Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> at Launceston Magistrates' Court in Cornwall.

23 year old Jamie Burton died having been found collapsed in his cell in Newquay Police Station at 5am on 24 May 2001 after he was arrested for his own safety late the previous evening for being "drunk and incapable".

Following the death and after pressure from Jamie's mother Jayne Walters, the Police Complaints Authority member Mr Duncan Gear who cited "serious questions concerning the care given to Jamie Burton while in custody", forced Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to hand over the investigation to an external police force - the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

INQUEST has for many years raised concerns about the treatment of vulnerable and intoxicated detainees in police stations. The inquest will explore whether there were failures in the care afforded to Jamie and whether any of these failures may have contributed to his untimely death.

The public inquest will be held on July 31st 2003 at Launceston Magistrates Court and is likely to last for 2 weeks.

The family will be represented by leading INQUEST Lawyers Group member Mark Scott from Bhatt Murphy Solicitors