

PRESS RELEASE
INQUEST'S RESPONSE TO THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF
PRISONS REPORT INTO HMP STYAL
11th JUNE 2004

Report On A Full Unannounced Inspection Of HM Prison/Young Offender Institution Styal 19-23 January 2004 By HM Chief Inspector Of Prisons – Anne Owers

The prison inspectorate report into HMP Styal was released today. The report identifies systemic failings that have already been clearly identified in a previous report by the Prison Inspectorate. (Feb. 2002)

Deborah Coles co-director of INQUEST that is working with the families of women who have died in Styal said:

"Will Home Office Ministers and Prison Service management explain to the families of the six women who died between 10th August 2002 and 12th August 2003 why they failed to take urgent action to address the systemic failings identified in the previous Inspectorate report in February 2002. As a direct result of this institutionalised neglect and complacency these women died and others have suffered inhuman and degrading treatment. Meanwhile another critical report into Styal prison by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman remains unpublished and gathers dust."

INQUEST is working with a number of families of the women who died at HMP Styal and continues to be shocked by the rising death toll of women in prison. Already this year there have been nine self-inflicted deaths of women in prison. In 2003 there were 14 self-inflicted deaths of women in prison.

Deaths of Women in HMP Styal August 2002 - August 2003

Name	Classification	Establishment	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Cause	Date Of Death
Julie Bernadette Walsh	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	39	Convicted	Overdose	12/08/2003
Hayley Williams	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	41	Convicted	Hanging	04/06/2003
Jolene Willis	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	25	Convicted	Hanging	20/04/2003
Sarah Campbell	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	18	Convicted	Overdose	18/01/2003
Anna Baker	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK Black	29	Remanded	Hanging	26/11/2002
Nissa Ann Smith	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	20	Remanded	Hanging	10/08/2002

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring