

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Shipman Dies in Prison

January 13th 2004

At 6.20 this morning Harold Shipman was found dead in his cell at HMP Wakefield.

Deborah Coles co-director of INQUEST, the organisation that monitors and campaigns on the issue of deaths in custody said:

"It is a shame that the self-inflicted deaths of 94 people in prisons last year did not merit this level of public scrutiny and interest.

Of particular concern are the number of vulnerable people, women and children and those with mental health problems, who die in prison and whose deaths go unnoticed. Every death in custody warrants a robust and transparent investigation to ensure that state failings are identified and lessons are learnt."

Please contact INQUEST for more statistical information on deaths in custody.