

21st November 2005
For immediate release

INQUEST BEGINS INTO THE DEATH OF 19 YEAR OLD WOMAN IN PRISON

Inquest starts 11.00 am Tuesday November 22nd 2005
Venue: Coroners Court, Bewdley Road, Stourport, Worcester, DY13 8XE
Sitting with HM Coroner for Worcestershire Victor Round

The inquest into the death of 19 year Anne-Marie Bates is due to start on Tuesday 22 November. The inquest is expected to last 3 weeks and will hear evidence about why this vulnerable young woman was in prison at all when she died and how she was treated while she was there.

Anne-Marie was found hanging in her cell at HMP Brockhill on the 31 August 2001 by another prisoner as cell doors were opened for afternoon association.

Anne-Marie was the mother of 3 children. Her youngest was born 11 weeks prematurely by emergency caesarean operation just 14 days before Anne-Marie was remanded into custody . A judge indicated she should have a place in a bail hostel – but no-one found her one, so she remained in prison until she died.

Anne-Marie had a history of serious drug dependency. At the time of Anne-Marie's death Brockhill prison did not have full healthcare facilities and did not provide a detoxification program for drug dependent prisoners. There are also concerns about the implementation of suicide prevention guidelines. Anne-Marie had been identified as being at risk of suicide and self harm but at the time of her death no care plan was in place despite her vulnerability. Furthermore Anne-Marie had been subject to bullying by other prisoners

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST who have been supporting the family since her death said:

“Anne-Marie's death touches upon a number of key issues that INQUEST have highlighted in relation to the inappropriate use of prison for vulnerable women.”

Anne-Marie's parents Violet and Ron Brayson said:

” We have waited four years for an inquest, that's too long. She should not have been in prison. We want to learn from the inquest why she wasn't got out”

The family are being represented by barrister Nick Brown from Doughty Street Chambers instructed by Jane Deighton solicitor from Deighton Guedalla solicitors.

Note to Editors

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the Coroner's Courts.

List of womens' deaths 2000 to 2005

Deaths of Women in Prison 2000 to date							
Classification	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Self-Inflicted	8	6	9	14	13	4	54
Non-Self-Inflicted	1	1	2	2	7	2	15
Awaiting Classification						1	1

List of deaths at HMP Brockhill

Self-inflicted deaths HMP Brockhill				
Name	Date Of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Cause
Katherine Jones	15/10/2004	UK White	19	Hanging
Sheena Kotecha	03/04/2004	UK Asian	22	Hanging
Leanne Gidney	14/01/2003	UK White	18	Hanging
Anne Marie Bates	31/08/2001	UK White	19	Hanging
Edeita Pomell	08/05/2000	Black Caribbean	20	Hanging
Sandra Jane Harris	28/03/2000	UK Black	26	Hanging
Joanne Holland	12/07/1999	UK White	26	Hanging
Rona Benson	03/12/1998	UK White	32	Hanging

Further Information	
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Solicitor	
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