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## HOME OFFICE ACCEPTS THAT THEY BREACHED THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF SARAH CAMPBELL IN STYAL PRISON

The Home Office have accepted liability for breach of Sarah Campbell's human rights under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Sarah Campbell, who died in January 2003, was one of six women to die in Styal prison in a twelve-month period between August 2002 and August 2003. A report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on Styal in February 2002 had identified systemic failings in the treatment and care of women withdrawing from drugs and with mental health problems. Inquest juries have returned highly critical narrative verdicts into these deaths focusing on systemic failings (see INQUEST press releases 2005/2006). Since Sarah's death there have been another 31 self inflicted deaths of women in prison.

Pauline Campbell, Sarah's mother said:

*"A grieving mother should not have to fight the system in order to get justice, and be faced with such a struggle while dealing with sudden bereavement. And I still haven't had an apology for the way in which Sarah died, nor for the appalling way I have been treated ever since."*

Mark Scott, solicitor from Bhatt Murphy:

*"It is particularly concerning that a young woman such as Sarah Campbell with all her vulnerabilities was placed in a prison that was so unable to safeguard her human rights and which led to her tragic death."*

Deborah Coles, Co-Director of INQUEST said:

*"The six deaths at Styal were preventable tragedies for which the prison service is culpable in failing to act on serious deficiencies in the treatment and care of vulnerable women. The sad reality is that women are still being sent to prisons that cannot keep them safe and where segregation and isolation for suicidal women is commonplace."*

Notes 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. We also conduct policy and research work.

### No. of self-inflicted deaths of women in prison (England & Wales) since 1990

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1	0	3	1	1	2	3	3	4	5	8	6	9	14	13	4	2	79

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

### Deaths at HMP Styal 2000-date

Name	DateOfDeath	Ethnicity	Age	Classification	Verdict
Valerie Hayes	10/05/2006	UK White	42	Self-Inflicted	Awaited
Julie Walsh	12/08/2003	UK White	39	Self-Inflicted	Narrative
Hayley Williams	04/06/2003	UK White	41	Self-Inflicted	Narrative
Jolene Willis	20/04/2003	UK White	25	Self-Inflicted	Narrative

Deaths at HMP Styal 2000-date					
Name	DateOfDeath	Ethnicity	Age	Classification	Verdict
Sarah Campbell	18/01/2003	UK White	18	Self-Inflicted	Narrative
Anna Baker	26/11/2002	UK Black	29	Self-Inflicted	Narrative
Nissa Ann Smith	10/08/2002	UK White	20	Self-Inflicted	Open
Donna Borg	05/04/2001	UK White	34	Self-Inflicted	Accidental Death
Sharon Wilkinson	02/04/2000	UK White	33	Self-Inflicted	Suicide

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

Further Information	<a href="http://www.inquest.org.uk">www.inquest.org.uk</a>
INQUEST	Office 020 7263 1111
Mark Scott, Bhatt Murphy	Office 020 7729 1115