

**INQUEST OPENS INTO RESTRAINT-RELATED DEATH IN CUSTODY**  
**30<sup>th</sup> August 2000**

Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 10.00am  
West London Coroners Court  
25 Bagleys Lane, Fulham, London. SW6 2QA

The inquest into the death in custody of 26-year-old fitness trainer Oliver Scott begins on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at West London Coroner's Court.

Mr Scott was arrested on December 18<sup>th</sup> 1999 by police officers based at Hammersmith Police Station after they received a call regarding a man 'acting strangely'. In the process of arresting Mr Scott a number of CS Gas canisters were discharged and Mr Scott received numerous blows from police batons which resulted in numerous injuries.

Following his arrest he was taken to Hammersmith police station where officers continued to restrain him until an ambulance arrived. He was taken to Charing Cross Hospital where he was certified dead.

The inquest is the first opportunity that Oliver's wife has had to find out about the full circumstances about his death and the conduct of those responsible for his arrest and detention. She has concerns regarding the force used to restrain her husband, the excessive use of CS Spray and the medical care he received at the police station following its use.

INQUEST has serious concerns about the number of restraint related deaths in Metropolitan Police custody and the increasing use of CS spray. Recommendations on the use of restraint and CS spray have been made following inquests and by the Police Complaints Authority, prior to Oliver Scott's death.

The inquest is expected to last two days.