

**A response to the review of the role and practices of the crown prosecution service in cases arising from a death in custody 17<sup>th</sup> July 2003**

Deborah Coles co-director of INQUEST said in response to the publication

“The proof of content will be in the implementation of the recommended changes and whether the outcomes will therefore result in a greater transparency and accountability. It will also be interesting to observe whether the various state agencies will continue to resist change.

There is a pattern of cases that involve neglect and excessive use of police force where the criminal justice system has completely failed bereaved families. INQUEST’s current cases continue to highlight the continuing reluctance of the CPS to prosecute.

The real challenge to the CPS lies in them demonstrating that suspicious deaths in custody will be treated as potential homicides and that the rule of law is applied to all citizens including those in the uniform of the police and prison service.”