

## GILES FREEMAN - RESTRAINT RELATED DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY - INQUEST TO OPEN

PRESS RELEASE NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 2004

HM Coroner Peter Bedford  
10.00 am  
Windsor Coroner's Court

The inquest of 37-year-old Giles Freeman will begin on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Windsor.

Giles died on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002 after being restrained by Thames Valley police officers. He had suffered from paranoid schizophrenia for many years and his illness was stabilised through medication. He had worked as a chef and was active in the Catholic Church.

On the night of his death police had been called to his home by his mother who was concerned about his deteriorating mental state and behaviour, and wanted him sectioned to the local psychiatric hospital, Wexham Park in Slough, where he was registered as a patient.

Instead he was detained (but not formally arrested) and taken to Slough police station where he was restrained by police officers on two separate occasions. At the time of the second restraint he was injected with 'Largactil' and tragically died.

Following his death there was an investigation carried out by Hertfordshire police under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST, the campaign group that works with bereaved families facing an inquest, said:

**"This is the first opportunity for public scrutiny of this tragic death following the use of restraint by police officers. The dangers of restraint are well known and INQUEST has grave concerns about the number of restraint related deaths in police custody involving people with mental health problems."**

INQUEST has ongoing concerns regarding restraint related deaths. In 2003 we gave written and oral evidence to the Independent Inquiry into the death of Rocky Bennett, who died in October 1998 after being restrained at the Norvic Clinic in Norwich. We documented our concerns about the number of restraint related deaths in custody and the lack of joined up thinking between state agencies. In January 2003 and again in September 2004 we submitted evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) Inquiry into deaths in custody. The family of Giles Freeman also attended a meeting INQUEST organised for bereaved families to speak to members of the JCHR about their concerns over custody deaths. The family have also raised concerns with their MP, Fiona McTaggart.

# **n q u e s t**

The family are being represented by INQUEST Lawyer's Group member Terry Munyard assisted by solicitor James Bell from Christian Khan solicitors.

	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Deaths in Police custody</b>	36	52	48	57	58	65	46	36	34	47	62	35
<b>Restraint related deaths in Police custody</b>	2	5	7	5	5	9	6	5	5	5	11	2