

**GILES FREEMAN - RESTRAINT RELATED DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY
– SUMMING UP AND VERDICT ON MONDAY**

PRESS RELEASE December 10th 2004

**HM Coroner Peter Bedford
10.00 am Monday 13th December
Venue: Windsor Guildhall**

The summing up and verdict in the inquest of 37-year-old Giles Freeman will be returned on Monday 13th December.

Evidence heard in the inquest has raised issues relating to:

- Provision of mental health care to those suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and the use of sectioning under the Mental Health Act;
- The use of restraint by police officers on those with mental health problems;
- The use of major tranquilisers (Largactil) to sedate those with mental health problems.

Giles Freeman died on 15th October 2002 after being restrained by a number of Thames Valley police officers in Slough Police Station. During his restraint he was injected with a Largactil. Moments later he collapsed and died. 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.

The family will be making a statement at the conclusion of the inquest and will be available for interviews.

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

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
James Bell, Christian Khan Solicitors	020 7831 1750
Deborah Coles co-director INQUEST	020 7263 1111
INQUEST Office	020 7263 1111
Inquest Details	Starts at 10 am Windsor Coroners Court, Old Town Hall, High Street, Windsor 01189015447

Notes to Editors

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.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Deaths in Police custody	36	52	48	57	58	65	46	36	34	47	62	39
Restraint related deaths in Police custody	2	5	7	5	5	9	6	5	5	5	11	2