

PRESS RELEASE

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OFFICERS SUSPENDED AFTER UNLAWFUL KILLING VERDICT ARE REINSTATED

The eight officers suspended following the unlawful killing verdict into the death of Roger Sylvester have been reinstated in their jobs. The decision follows a judicial review on behalf of the officers involved in the fatal restraint of Roger Sylvester.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST who has been working with the family since his death said:

“This outrageous decision once again sends the message that police officers involved in fatal restraint are above the law and families whose loved ones have died as a result of excessive and unlawful force can get no justice and accountability.

The Judge in the judicial review found that there was sufficient evidence to allow a jury to return an unlawful killing verdict and that the coroner was therefore justified in leaving such a verdict to the jury but because of errors in the coroners summing up and jury inquisition form he was minded to quash the verdict. The inquest jury unanimously decided on that evidence that Roger died as the result of the use of unlawful and excessive force. These suspensions followed. On the basis of that evidence the Crown Prosecution Service are still considering whether the officers should be prosecuted. It is appalling that the Deputy Commissioner should preempt the findings of the Judge and the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service”.

Bernard Renwick, brother of Roger Sylvester said: “We are bitterly disappointed in learning that the officers involved in Roger’s fatal restraint are no longer suspended. This decision has yet again caused deep anguish and distress to the whole family. Roger would not be dead if these police officers had not laid hands on him.”