

**Press Release**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

**Family to meet Secretary of State for Health, Dr John Reid  
8.30am Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February before publication of  
Inquiry Report into the death of  
David 'Rocky' Bennett**

At 8.30am on Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> Dr Joanna Bennett, Sadiq Khan, solicitor and Helen Shaw, co-director of INQUEST will be meeting with the Secretary of State for Health, Dr John Reid to discuss their concerns about Rocky Bennett's death.

The Inquiry report will be formally launched at midday on Thursday and will detail the findings of panel who inquired into the death of David 'Rocky' Bennett who died nearly 5½ years ago in the Norvic Clinic, Norwich.

Rocky was a 38-year old black man who had been a detained patient in the Clinic for three years. His death followed an incident involving the use of restraint. The jury at the inquest returned a verdict of accidental death aggravated by neglect on 17 May 2001 and said that the cause of death was due to prolonged restraint and long-term anti-psychotic drug therapy.

Following the inquest the family of Mr. Bennett, their lawyers and INQUEST called on the Government to consider holding a public inquiry into Mr. Bennett's death. The Minister agreed to an extended form of the usual inquiry that follows a death in psychiatric detention with a public element looking at the national lessons to be learnt.

A full briefing is available on the INQUEST website.

INQUEST has worked with the family of Rocky Bennett for five and a half years. We have major concerns about the number of restraint related deaths in detention and the procedures for holding those responsible to account, which serve neither the public interest nor the family of the deceased.

INQUEST works directly with the families of those who die in custody. We provide legal advice and support and work with families and their lawyers. We monitor deaths in detention - in police custody, prisons, psychiatric hospitals and immigration detention centres, as well as the inquiries held into them. INQUEST aims to raise public awareness about controversial deaths, and campaigns for the necessary changes to improve the investigation process, increase accountability of state officials and avert further deaths.