

## PRESS RELEASE - MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2005

### INQUEST OPENS INTO DEATH OF 20-YEAR-OLD IN HMP NORWICH

**HM Coroner for Norwich William Armstrong**  
**Sitting at: City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH**  
**Date: Tuesday 15 November 2005**  
**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

The inquest into the death of 20-year-old Andrew Barclay who died at HMP Norwich on 24 April 2003 is due to start on Tuesday and is expected to last 3 days.

Andrew who had arrived at the prison on the 14 February 2003 was found hanging in his cell by a prison officer as he opened the cells for morning unlock on 24 April 2003. Although he had been experiencing depression it is believed he had not been placed on a suicide watch. The family are hoping that the inquest will focus on:

- Whether the people in contact with Andrew at the prison should have been expected to be aware of his vulnerable mental state in the run up to his death;
- Whether there was an adequate assessment of Andrew's risk of self-harm;
- The effectiveness of medical note keeping in relation to Andrew's care;
- The appropriateness and effectiveness of the emergency response and intervention by prison staff on finding Andrew hanging in his cell.

INQUEST has worked closely with Andrew's father John Barclay since the tragic death of his son. This inquest is the first opportunity that Andrew's family have had to find out the circumstances of Andrew's death over two and a half years ago. In 2003 John was one of a number of families who gave evidence to the Parliamentary All Party Joint Committee for Human Rights as part of their inquiry into deaths in custody. Despite the nature of his son's death in prison John has been refused public funding for the inquest. This is in stark contrast to the Prison Service whose legal team is paid for out of the public purse.

The family of Andrew Barclay are being represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Nick Stange (Garden Court North Chambers) instructed by James Bell (Christian Khan Solicitors).

Notes to Editors

Self-inflicted deaths at HMP Norwich 2000-2005					
Name	DateOfDeath	Status	Ethnicity	Age	Cause of death
Simon Smith	30/09/2005	Convicted	UK White	40	Hanging
Paul Jones	05/07/2005	Convicted	UK White	20	Hanging
James Fadden	11/06/2005	Remanded	UK White	28	Hanging
Raymond Goodwin	27/09/2004	Remanded	UK White	44	Hanging
Benjamin Gibson	25/08/2004	Convicted	UK White	19	Hanging

Self-inflicted deaths at HMP Norwich 2000-2005					
Name	DateOfDeath	Status	Ethnicity	Age	Cause of death
Kingsley Llewellyn	14/03/2004	N/A	Black Caribbean	29	Hanging
Benjamin Townsend	21/06/2003	Convicted	UK White	19	Hanging
Andrew Barclay	24/04/2003	Convicted	UK White	20	Hanging
Nicholas Brownlee	02/01/2003	Convicted	UK White	29	Plastic bag over head
Ryan Edmunds	17/08/2002	Remanded	UK White	20	Hanging
Wayne Rowan	25/12/2001	Convicted	UK White	27	Hanging & bag over head
Carl Dale	20/09/2001	Remanded	UK White	43	Hanging
Philip Nixon	17/08/2000	Remanded	White	31	Hanging

INQUEST has ongoing concerns regarding the number of young offenders taking their own lives in prison. Andrew was one of twelve people who died in 2003 aged 21 and under.

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the coroner's courts.