

**PRESS RELEASE 17 JUNE 2005
EMMA LEVEY DEATH IN PRISON
INQUEST TO BEGIN ON MONDAY**

Inquest Details

Starts 9.30 am 20 June 2005
HM Coroner Michael Burgess
Sitting with HM Coroner for Surrey
Elmbridge Civic Centre
Esher
Surrey

The inquest into the death of Emma Levey will begin at 9.30 am on 20 June 2005 . It is scheduled to last for two weeks.

Emma Levey died at HMP Downview on the 4th November 2003. She had recently been transferred from HMP Holloway where she had received a 10 day detoxification treatment for drug and alcohol addiction. Emma suffered from symptoms of mental illness but there was no psychiatrist at Downview prison to prescribe suitable medication which she was asking for. She made a number of self harm or suicide attempts in the days before her death and was found hanging in her cell.

The family will be questioning the care that Emma received both at Holloway and Downview prisons, including the quality of the detox treatment, the decision to transfer her to a prison without access to a psychiatrist, the assessment of her mental health needs and the management of the risk of suicide or self/harm.

INQUEST Lawyers Group members Jocelyn Cockburn of Hodge Jones and Allen Solicitors and Steve Cragg of Doughty Street Chambers will be representing the family.

Notes to editors:

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.