

## PRESS RELEASE

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## NEW BOOK PROPOSES ABOLITION OF PENAL CUSTODY FOR CHILDREN AFTER 28 DEATHS SINCE 1990

Launch of *In the Care of the State? Child Deaths in Penal Custody in England and Wales* by Barry Goldson and Deborah Coles and published by INQUEST.

**\*\*11.00 am Thursday 21 July 2005, Jubilee Room, House of Commons\*\***

INQUEST invites you to the launch of Barry Goldson's and Deborah Coles' new book *In the Care of the State?* the first detailed analysis of child deaths in penal custody ever to be published. The book presents key conclusions and recommendations which, taken together, make a case for:

- the abolition of prison custody for children;
- a comprehensive review of child deaths in penal custody;
- the creation of an independent 'Standing Commission on Custodial Deaths';
- a full public inquiry into the death of 16-year-old Joseph Scholes who died in prison in 2002.

Chaired by Baroness Vivien Stern, Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Prison Studies, the launch will hear from the book's authors Dr Barry Goldson, senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Liverpool, and Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST. Also speaking will be Lord David Ramsbotham, former Chief Inspector of Prisons and new member of the House of Lords and Yvonne Scholes, mother of 16-year-old Joseph Scholes who died in HMPYOI Stoke Heath in 2002. The families of several children who have died in custody will also be in attendance.

Deborah Coles, Barry Goldson and Yvonne Scholes are available for interview.

To review *In the Care of the State?* please contact Marcie Shaoul at the INQUEST office.