

FRIDAY JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 2005

## JOLENE WILLIS– DEATH IN HMP STYAL - INQUEST TO BEGIN ON MONDAY

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 2.00 pm  
HM Coroner Mr N L Rheinberg

Sitting at:  
Warrington Town Hall,  
Sankey Street,  
Warrington,  
Cheshire,  
WA1 1UH

The inquest into the death of 24-year-old Jolene Willis will start on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January and is expected to last two weeks.

Jolene died on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2003 and was the fourth of six women in HMP Styal to die in a twelve-month period between August 2002 and August 2003. Jolene was serving a four month sentence following a conviction for shoplifting. Prison Inspectorate reports on HMP Styal have identified systemic failings in the treatment and care of women withdrawing from drugs and this inquest will again raise concerns about the treatment and care of vulnerable women.

Jolene had a history of drug and alcohol problems and was placed on detox on entry to the prison. She was on a open F2052SH (suicide/self-harm alert form) when she died. Jolene had been moved to two different prisons in 21 days.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST said: “This inquest is the fourth of the six inquests into the spate of deaths at HMP Styal and will once again raise concerns about the treatment and care of women withdrawing from drugs and those at risk of suicide and self-harm.”

Notes to Editors

The family of Jolene Willis will be represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Colin Hutchinson, 2 Garden Court Chambers, instructed by Joanne Kearsley, Farley’s Solicitors. The inquest is scheduled to last 2 weeks.

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.

Deaths of Women in HMP Styal August 2002 - August 2003							
Name	Classification	Establishment	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Cause	Date Of Death

Deaths of Women in HMP Styal August 2002 - August 2003							
Name	Classification	Establishment	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Cause	Date Of Death
Julie Bernadette Walsh	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	39	Convicted	Overdose	12/08/2003
Hayley Williams	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	41	Convicted	Hanging	04/06/2003
Jolene Willis	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	25	Convicted	Hanging	20/04/2003
Sarah Campbell	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	18	Convicted	Overdose	18/01/2003
Anna Baker	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK Black	29	Remanded	Hanging	26/11/2002
Nissa Ann Smith	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal	UK White	20	Remanded	Hanging	10/08/2002

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring