

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE 22 APRIL 2005
CORONER TO SUM UP EVIDENCE HEARD IN INQUEST OF JULIE WALSH DEATH
IN HMP STYAL

HM Coroner Mr N L Rheinberg

Sitting at:

Macclesfield Town Hall

Mill St

Macclesfield

SK10 1DX

9.00 am Monday 25 April

The summing up of evidence heard in the inquest into the death of 39-year-old Julie Walsh will begin on Monday 25 April at Macclesfield Town Hall. Julie died on 12 August 2003 and was one of six women who died at Styal between August 2002 and August 2003. This is the last of the six inquests to be heard. The jury have heard very disturbing evidence about the systems in place at Styal for the treatment and care of women with drug problems.

The coroner will sum up the evidence and direct the jury as to possible verdicts they can consider. Having conducted the inquests into the six deaths and as part of his duty to prevent similar fatalities under Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules he will also announce any matters and/or recommendations he is going to report to the authorities.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST, will be commenting at the conclusion of the inquest.

Note to editors:

Juries at previous Styal inquests into the deaths of Anna Baker, Sarah Campbell and Jolene Willis have returned highly critical verdicts and have highlighted serious issues of concern regarding the treatment and care of women withdrawing from drugs, the regime and the conditions in which they were held.

See www.inquest.org.uk

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

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
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