

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE 25 APRIL 2005

VERDICT DUE AT INQUEST INTO DEATH OF JULIE WALSH IN HMP STYAL

HM Coroner Mr N L Rheinberg
Sitting at: Macclesfield Town Hall
Mill St, Macclesfield
SK10 1DX

Tuesday 26 April

After hearing two weeks of evidence the Jury will be considering their verdict at the inquest into the death of 39-year-old Julie Walsh on Tuesday 26 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.

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 for further information.

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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