

“[WE BELIEVE PAUL DAY FELT] ABANDONED, FRUSTRATED, DEPRESSED, HELPLESS AND DEFEATED AND [HAD] LOST ANY TRUST IN THE SYSTEM AND HIS CARERS” CONCLUDE JURY IN PAUL DAY INQUEST

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2 2005

The jury in the inquest into the death of 31-year-old Paul Day who died in HMP Frankland on 2 October 2002 have returned a highly critical narrative verdict following a four week inquest. Their findings included the following:

- That the communication between prisons concerning procedures and transfers was inadequate;
- That the constant verbal abuse that Paul suffered for the last 51 days of his life was not dealt with appropriately by staff and that this was a contributing factor to his death and ‘gradually took its toll on his mind’;
- Paul was on a dirty protest during the last four days of his life and yet he was not encouraged to stop and when he did come off the protest he was returned to the dirty protest corridor;
- He was not consulted before, during or after his last mental health assessment on 1 October 2002, the day before his death.

Paul was on an F2052SH (suicide and self-harm monitoring form) and yet he was checked irregularly, observations were poor as were written entries and staff training in suicide awareness inadequate. The meaning ‘frequent, irregular checks’, was not understood by either management or staff on the segregation unit and the jury believe this contributed to his death. The jury rejected the prison service’s claim that Paul was checked at 22.25 on the night of his death.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST, said; “Paul Day was an extremely vulnerable prisoner who was owed a particular duty of care and yet he was subjected to abusive, inhuman and degrading treatment. Prison Service protocols on bullying, suicide prevention and dirty protests were not adhered to and instead his human rights were disregarded and he suffered appalling degradation and abuse until he was driven to his death. The jury were clearly shocked that this kind of treatment could occur in an English prison.”

Pauline Day, mother of Paul Day, said; “We welcome the verdict and the jury’s findings and are very pleased that the jury read and heard the evidence and came back with the truth. This is the start not the end of our battle. We will continue to fight for those vulnerable people who are locked up in segregation units across prisons in this country. He should never have been there, segregation is for punishment, our son needed help. He suffered 51 days of torture which cannot be justified by anyone to us. We want everyone to know what he went through.”

Notes to Editors

The family are available for interview following the conclusion of the inquest.

The family of Paul Day were represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Leslie Thomas (2 Garden Court Chambers) instructed by Fiona Borrill (Lester Morrill Solicitors).

INQUEST is concerned about the number of deaths in segregation units.

Paul was found hanging from his cell window at HMP Frankland on 2 October 2002.

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.