

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005  
For immediate release

## INQUEST ADJOURNED INTO THE DEATH OF 19 YEAR OLD WOMAN IN PRISON

### Sitting with HM Coroner for Worcestershire Victor Round

The inquest into the death of 19 year Anne-Marie Bates has been adjourned until sometime in the New Year.

The inquest was expected to last 3 weeks but due to issues relating to disclosure and other administrative issues the coroner has decided to adjourn the inquest.

### Note to Editors

#### Background information

Anne-Marie was found hanging in her cell at HMP Brockhill on the 31 August 2001 by another prisoner as cell doors were opened for afternoon association.

Anne-Marie was the mother of 3 children. Her youngest was born 11 weeks prematurely by emergency caesarean operation just 14 days before Anne-Marie was remanded into custody. A judge indicated she should have a place in a bail hostel – but no-one found her one, so she remained in prison until she died.

Anne-Marie had a history of serious drug dependency. At the time of Anne-Marie's death Brockhill prison did not have full healthcare facilities and did not provide a detoxification program for drug dependent prisoners. There are also concerns about the implementation of suicide prevention guidelines. Anne-Marie had been identified as being at risk of suicide and self harm but at the time of her death no care plan was in place despite her vulnerability. Furthermore Anne-Marie had been subject to bullying by other prisoners

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.

### List of womens' deaths 2000 to 2005

| Deaths of Women in Prison 2000 to date |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Classification                         | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total |
| Self-Inflicted                         | 8    | 6    | 9    | 14   | 13   | 4    | 54    |
| Non-Self-Inflicted                     | 1    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 7    | 2    | 15    |
| Awaiting Classification                |      |      |      |      |      | 1    | 1     |

List of deaths at HMP Brockhill

| Self-inflicted deaths HMP Brockhill |               |                 |     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| Name                                | Date Of Death | Ethnicity       | Age | Cause   |
| Katherine Jones                     | 15/10/2004    | UK White        | 19  | Hanging |
| Sheena Kotecha                      | 03/04/2004    | UK Asian        | 22  | Hanging |
| Leanne Gidney                       | 14/01/2003    | UK White        | 18  | Hanging |
| Anne Marie Bates                    | 31/08/2001    | UK White        | 18  | Hanging |
| Edeita Pomell                       | 08/05/2000    | Black Caribbean | 20  | Hanging |
| Sandra Jane Harris                  | 28/03/2000    | UK Black        | 26  | Hanging |
| Joanne Holland                      | 12/07/1999    | UK White        | 26  | Hanging |
| Rona Benson                         | 03/12/1998    | UK White        | 32  | Hanging |

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| Further Information                          |  |
| INQUEST                                      | <a href="http://www.inquest.org.uk">www.inquest.org.uk</a> |
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