

**PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 3 2005**  
**FIRST DEATH OF A WOMAN IN PRISON THIS YEAR**

The self-inflicted death of 26-year-old Victoria Robinson in HMP New Hall on Wednesday is the first woman's death in prison this year and is a stark reminder of the number of vulnerable women who continue to die in prison. Last year 13 women took their own lives in prisons.

In 2004 there were three self-inflicted deaths at HMP New Hall, a quarter of all women's deaths in prison last year.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST said:

"This shameful and relentless death toll exposes a crisis in women's prisons, and the numbers of women being sent to prisons that cannot protect their right to life. Only two days ago an inquest was held into the death of Helena Price in HMP New Hall. INQUEST is concerned that the lessons from these deaths are not being learned and because of this, women keep dying."

Notes to Editors

Number of self-inflicted deaths of women in prison 2000 - 2004

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number	8	6	9	14	13

Source INQUEST monitoring

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.