

For immediate release 12 May 2006

INQUEST INTO DEATH OF WOMAN IN LANCASHIRE POLICE STATION TO OPEN

Before HM Coroner for Preston Dr James Adeley
Sitting at Lancaster Shire Hall
Castle Parade
Lancaster
LA1 1YJ
10.30am Monday 15 May 2006

The inquest into the death of Lillian Taylor is to begin on Monday 15 May, sitting at Lancashire Shire Hall before HM Coroner Dr James Adeley. The inquest is scheduled to sit for two weeks.

Lillian Taylor was arrested at 5pm on 16 March 2002 on suspicion of possessing drugs with intent to supply. Police officers placed her in the cells of Fleetwood Police Station, Lancashire. It is believed that at 10.40pm she indicated she had swallowed a package containing drugs. However on examination by a police doctor a decision was made to not take her to a nearby hospital. Some hours from this decision Lillian Taylor was found dead in her cell.

The family of Lillian Taylor hope that the inquest will look into a number of issues relating to her care including:

- Why Lillian, who suffered from Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, was refused the use of a toilet;
- Why it was deemed that despite admitting swallowing possibly lethal drugs, she was not taken to the nearby hospital and whether a short and limited examination of Lillian Taylor was sufficient to make such a judgement;
- Whether crucial half hourly checks were carried out appropriately by custody suite officers;
- Whether her death was avoidable if she had been received into the care of the hospital which was walking distance from the police station;

The family are being represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members barrister Nick Stange from Garden Court Chambers, Manchester, instructed by Harriet Wistrich of Birnberg Solicitors, London.

Notes to Editors

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.

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
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