

PRESS RELEASE - For immediate release 2 May 2006

DEATH OF YOUNG WOMAN IN PRISON

22-year-old Kelly Hutchinson was found hanging in her cell early yesterday morning. She was serving a five month sentence for theft. Her death comes just days after a jury at the inquest into another death at HMP New Hall returned a verdict highly critical of the care provided to a woman at risk.

HMP New Hall has recorded the highest number of self-inflicted deaths across the women's estate. Kelly Hutchinson is the eleventh self-inflicted death at HMP New Hall since 2002.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST said:

"This death is a tragic consequence of sending women committing non-violent offences to prison. The high number of deaths in New Hall prison raises serious questions about its ability to keep women in its custody safe and whether the lessons from previous deaths are being learned".

Self inflicted deaths 2002-date at HMP New Hall

Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Cause
Kelly Hutchinson	01/05/2006	UK White	22	Sentenced	Hanging
Victoria Robinson	02/02/2005	UK White	26	Remanded	Hanging
Mandy Pearson	12/10/2004	UK White	37	Sentenced	Hanging
Marie Walsh	29/07/2004	UK White	29	Awaiting Sentence	Hanging
Louise Davis	18/04/2004	UK White	32	Sentenced	Hanging
Petra Blanksby	24/11/2003	UK White	19	Remanded	Hanging
Jessica Adam	21/06/2003	UK White	22	Sentenced	Hanging
Helena Price	14/02/2003	UK White	27	Sentenced	Hanging
Jacqueline McPartline	18/08/2002	UK White	32	Sentenced	Hanging
Miranda Cox	26/01/2002	UK White	41	Remanded	Hanging
Victoria Winterburn	04/01/2002	UK White	21	Remanded	Hanging

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

Number of Self inflicted deaths of women in prison 2000-2006

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number	8	6	9	14	13	4	1

Source: INQUEST monitoring

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	
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