

For immediate release 9 JANUARY 2006

**INQUEST TO OPEN INTO THE RESTRAINT-RELATED DEATH OF
ANDREW JORDAN IN METROPOLITAN POLICE CUSTODY**

HM Coroner Dr R N Palmer, sitting at:
Erith Town Hall,
Walnut Tree Road,
Erith,
Kent,
DA8 1TL
10am Tuesday 10 January 2006

28 year old Guyanese man Andrew Jordan died following attempts to detain him under the Mental Health Act on the 7th Oct 2003. He had been visited by a Mental Health Team from Oxleas Primary Care Trust and the police at his home in Erith. After initially refusing entry to the house Andrew opened the door to talk to the police. However it would seem a number of police officers then entered Andrew's home and proceeded to restrain him. Andrew, who had a history of schizophrenia, was later carried out to an ambulance waiting outside the house. It is believed that Andrew died on the way to the hospital.

The family hope the inquest will explore the following issues:

- Why the police were called to the property;
- Were the actions of the police officers proportionate and did their action exacerbate the situation;
- Was the response of Mental Health Team appropriate;
- What occurred in the house while Andrew was being restrained by up to six police officers;
- Why Andrew's family were not notified that he was not cooperating with the request from the Mental Health Team especially when they wanted to visit him at his home.

Savitri Jordan, Andrew's widow said:

"We have been waiting a long time for this inquest and we hope that the truth comes out as to how Andrew died".

Helen Shaw, Co-Director of INQUEST said:

"This is the first opportunity for public scrutiny of this tragic death following the use of restraint by police officers. INQUEST has grave concerns about the number of

restraint related deaths of black men in police custody and involving people with mental health problems.”

The Jordan family will be represented at the inquest by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Susie Yau (Fisher Meredith Solicitors) and barrister Leslie Thomas (Garden Court Chambers)

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.

Restraint-related deaths in Police Custody (England & Wales) 2000-date								
Force	Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Metropolitan Police	Custody	1	2	1	3	1	2	10
Other Forces	Custody	4	3	5	8	5	2	27

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

CONTACTS:

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
Inquest details	Tuesday 10 th January 2006; 10am, Erith Town Hall, Kent
Helen Shaw Co-Director, INQUEST Gilly Mundy, Senior Caseworker (after 14 th January)	office 020 7263 1111
Susie Yau, Fisher Meredith Solicitors	office 020 7091 2700