

For immediate release 12 February 2007

INQUEST OPENS INTO FIRST RESTRAINT RELATED DEATH OF A CHILD IN CUSTODY

10.00am Thursday 15 February 2007 (formal evidence to commence)
Before HH Richard Pollard, retired circuit court judge sitting as a coroner
Rushden and Diamond Conference Centre, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, NN9 5QF

The inquest into the restraint related death of 15 year old Gareth Myatt in privately run Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre (STC) in April 2004 will open for formal evidence on Thursday 15 February and will begin by hearing from Gareth's mother. The inquest is scheduled to last for four weeks.

Evidence will also be heard from amongst others: the officers involved in the restraint; those responsible for the introduction of the restraint technique used together with senior management of the Youth Justice Board and Rainsbrook; medical experts and other children held at Rainsbrook.

INQUEST has particular concerns about:

- the type and prevalence of physical restraint used against children in custody;
- the appropriateness of the force used on Gareth;
- how the type of restraint used was originally approved and medically assessed;
- the monitoring, auditing and reviewing of the restraint technique and if potential risks were identified;
- how the staff who used it were trained.

The family will be represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Dexter Dias from Garden Court chambers and Mark Scott from Bhatt Murphy solicitors.

A detailed press briefing is available on the INQUEST website.

Notes to Editors

Further information	www.inquest.org.uk
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