

PRESS RELEASE

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INQUEST RESPONSE TO PUBLICATION OF IPCC ANNUAL REPORT

Deborah Coles, Co-Director of INQUEST, said:

"INQUEST's casework and monitoring demonstrates that there are still a disturbing number of deaths which raise concerns about the treatment and care of vulnerable people in police custody and failings in the duty of care. Many of these concerns stem from the need for diversion of people with mental health, drug and alcohol problems from custody in the first place.

Public confidence in the IPCC will only be sustained if there is proper public scrutiny of these deaths, the circumstances surrounding them are fully and fearlessly explored, and the police are held to account.

The fact that there has been no overall change in the numbers of deaths following police contact or in police custody, plus the disturbing rise in police shootings indicates there is much more work to be done to prevent future deaths"

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 and conducts policy work on the issues arising.

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
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