

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 17 April 2009

### INQUEST TO OPEN INTO DEATH OF LISA DOE IN SEND PRISON

9.30am Monday 20 April 2009

Sitting before HM Coroner for Surrey Michael Burgess  
Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, GU22 7QQ

The inquest into the death of 25 year old Lisa Doe opens on 20 April 2009 and is expected to last for two weeks. Lisa was found hanging in her cell at HMP Send on 11 September 2007. Lisa was a vulnerable prisoner who had a long history of drug abuse and self-harm. She suffered from mental health problems linked to her early life experiences.

Throughout her sentence Lisa was often subject to an open F2052SH/ACCT (identified as being at risk of suicide and self harm) and had spent time in a therapeutic community in prison.

On 11 September 2007 Lisa cut her wrist using a razor blade. Her wound was dressed by a prison officer and she was taken to healthcare where she was seen by a nurse. Half an hour later at 5.00pm, Lisa was found hanging in her cell's bathroom.

The family hopes the inquest will examine:

- Whether Lisa was subjected to bullying and what effect this had on her state of mind.
- What HMP Send's anti-bullying policies and procedures were at the time and whether they were implemented.
- Why Lisa was in a cell with an obvious ligature point.
- What impact did leaving the therapeutic community early have Lisa's state of mind after and what support did she receive as a result.
- The management of Lisa's suicide and self-harming risk, particularly in relation to her act of self harm on 11 September.
- Whether the support Lisa received as a life prisoner in HMP Send was appropriate.

Lisa Doe's family is represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members barrister Nick Brown of Doughty Street Chambers, instructed by Anna Thwaites of Hodge Jones and Allen.

#### 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.

# Inquest

INQUEST is campaigning to ensure that the Coroners and Justice Bill 2009 results in fundamental reform of an inquest system currently hampered by delay, inconsistency of approach and lack of resources and unable to fulfil its vital function of preventing unnecessary deaths.

The government must also make changes to ensure that bereaved families can participate effectively in inquest hearings by having equal access, alongside the police and Prison Service, to non means-tested public funding for their legal representation. [INQUEST's briefing on the Coroners & Justice Bill](#)

Deaths of women at HMP Send 2004 to date						
Name	Date Of Death	Establishment	Age	Status	Cause	Classification
Lisa Doe	11/09/2007	HMP Send	25	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted
Emma Kelly	19/04/2007	HMP Send	32	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted
Paige Tapp	18/04/2004	HMP Send	23	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted

Source: INQUEST monitoring

Further Information	<a href="http://www.inquest.org.uk">www.inquest.org.uk</a>
Deborah Coles, Co-director, INQUEST	office 020 7263 1111
Anna Thwaites, Hodge, Jones and Allen Solicitors	office 020 7388 0628