



Home Office

Rt Hon Nick Herbert MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Marcia Rigg & Samantha Rigg-David
c/o Inquest
89-93 Fonthill Road
London
N4 3JH

Reference: M19541/11

7 December 2011

Marcia Rigg and Samantha Rigg-David

Thank you for your letter of 28 October to the Prime Minister about the United Family and Friends Campaign: Deaths in State Custody. I am replying as the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice. I am sorry for the delay.

I can assure you that the Government regrets every death in state custody. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is a Non-Departmental Public Body, established in 2004 under the Police Reform Act 2002 to provide a specific service to the public on behalf of the Home Office. The IPCC is independent - by law - and they make their decisions independently of the police, Government, complainants and interest groups. This means that:

- All complaints must be dealt with in accordance with legislation and the guidance issued by the IPCC and agreed by the Home Secretary;
- All complainants who have their complaints dealt with by the police in the first instance have a right of appeal to the IPCC;
- They independently investigate the most serious incidents and complaints; and,
- They report publicly on the outcome of investigations and make local and national recommendations as appropriate to help to ensure that the same thing does not go wrong again.