



ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

INQUEST
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In memory of Gilly Mundy



In March 2007 INQUEST's senior caseworker Gilly Mundy died suddenly after suffering a stroke at work. Gilly worked at INQUEST for nine years having previously been caseworker at the Newham Monitoring Project (NMP) and for the Stephen Lawrence family campaign during the inquiry into his murder.

His was a familiar face at coroners' courts around the country providing invaluable support to families and their lawyers. Gilly developed the casework service at INQUEST as its first dedicated caseworker and had a way of patiently listening, guiding and providing strength to families combining his politics and belief in what was right and just with his compassion, humour and love for life. Never one to revel in the limelight but whether in Parliament, the Home

Office, coroner's court or in the local pub he had an ability to connect on a personal level, quietly and generously, with everyone he met. Several hundred people from all over the world attended the funeral in his home town of Leamington Spa.

Deborah Coles, Co-Director of INQUEST is chair of the Buwan Kothi International Trust (BKIT) set up in memory of Gilly. In March 2008, exactly one year after his death, the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School opened in Haryana, India. In just 12 months, BKIT raised over £50,000 to build the school close to his family village.

The first Gilly Mundy Memorial Debate was held on 23 April 2008 at SOAS in London and attended by over 280 people. Organised by NMP in memory of Gilly's political work and supported by INQUEST, the event focussed on *Racism and the State of Britain*. Panellists included INQUEST patron, poet Benjamin Zephaniah; journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown; Guantánamo Bay survivor Moazzam Begg; human rights lawyer Gareth Peirce; and Nick Hardwick from the IPCC. The event was a marked success with lively audience participation combined with passionate debates.

Lust For Life, an exhibition of Gilly's photographs of India, has been displayed widely. Proceeds from sales of photographs went directly to fund the running of the school.

"Gilly was a rock to our family when my cousin, Mikey Powell, died in police custody in 2003. Gilly made several trips to Birmingham to see us during those early painful months. He will be sorely missed, but the legacy of compassion and care that was at his core will live on through all those whose lives he touched."

Tippa Naphtali on behalf of the Powell family

"I don't know what we would have done without INQUEST. When I was told that my grandson had hanged himself in Wandsworth prison I had nowhere to turn. Gilly, in particular was an angel and offered not just excellent advice, but sympathetic understanding of our rage and fears. Through INQUEST we met other families who suffered as we had suffered."

Erin Pizzey – grandmother of Keita Craig who died in HMP Wandsworth

"Gilly's loss is deeply felt. What a lovely man who balanced serious politics and commitment to justice with such gentleness and grace."

Professor Barry Goldson, co-author of *In the Care of the State?*

"Gilly was my first point of contact with INQUEST, early in 2003, following the death of my only child, aged 18. I met him for the first time exactly seven weeks after Sarah's death at INQUEST's AGM in London. His quiet confidence inspired me. Gilly will be sadly missed."

Pauline Campbell, mother of Sarah Campbell who died in HMP Styal

"What an extraordinary unique masterpiece, a man truly with a passion for justice.

Shortly after the awful death of my precious son Michael Bailey at the notorious HMP Rye Hill on 24th March 2005, I received a call from Gilly. Within days he arrived at our home and spent the whole day with us. Gilly was truly remarkable; he opened the eyes of Michael's family to what lay ahead, placing before us the positive and negatives that would come. At times it was almost as if Gilly knew Michael personally as his passion was so overwhelming to say the least. God bless Gilly for his work."

Caroline Bailey, mother of Michael Bailey who died in HMP Rye Hill

ABOUT INQUEST

INQUEST Charitable Trust was established in 1995 to complement and assist the work of its sister organisation INQUEST which was founded in 1981. In March 2004 the two organisations merged into a single charitable organisation known publicly as INQUEST. The INQUEST Charitable Trust is a registered charity (number 1046650) and a company limited by guarantee (number 03054853).

INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales that provides a specialist, comprehensive advice service on contentious deaths and their investigation to bereaved people, lawyers, other advice and support agencies, the media, MPs and the wider public. INQUEST has a free information pack available to any bereaved family which explains the whole inquest process and where to find emotional and practical support.

Our casework priorities are deaths in prison and in police custody, in immigration detention and deaths of detained patients. Our focus on and monitoring of deaths in custody means that we are at the forefront of uncovering patterns and trends. Arising from this we have particular concerns about the deaths of women, people from black and ethnic minority communities, children and young people, and people with mental health problems. This is both in terms of the treatment and care received by the deceased in custody and the experience of bereaved relatives following the death.

INQUEST develops policy proposals and undertakes research to lobby for changes to the inquest and investigation process, reducing the number of custodial deaths, and improving the treatment and care of those within the institutions where the deaths occur.

“Let me record my thanks to and appreciation and admiration for the organisation INQUEST... That organisation, which is based in my constituency, has done amazingly good work over a long period in supporting the families of people who have died in custody.

Nothing is popular about such cases, but the organisation has been dogged in pursuing them. I think we should appreciate the value of civil society organisations of that kind which do so much to promote decent standards and liberty, and which help the House to produce better legislation.”

Jeremy Corbyn MP, speaking in the House of Commons 19 November 2008

INQUEST Staff 2007-2008

Co-Directors - Deborah Coles and Helen Shaw

The Co-Directors are jointly responsible for leading INQUEST and ensuring its continued credibility as a high-profile service-delivery and campaigning organisation. They are responsible for individual staff management and supervision as well as organisational and team management and development. They devise INQUEST's strategic policy on reform of the inquest system and issues arising from casework, in particular in relation to deaths in custody, and liaise with government - frequently at ministerial level - and other relevant organisations. The Co-Directors lead specific projects and undertake research to assist the organisation in achieving meaningful change in related policy and practice. They represent the organisation both orally and in writing at external events and in the media and work on individual cases ranging from inquests to hearings in the House of Lords.

Casework Team

Gilly Mundy – Senior Caseworker (to March 2007)

Sian Griffiths – Casework Service Manager (from December 2007)

Catherine Hayes – Caseworker

Scarlet Granville – Caseworker (maternity leave from September 2007-September 2008)

Naomi Lumsdaine – Locum Caseworker (September 2007-June 2008)

The Casework Team's primary role is to advise and support bereaved families on their rights in relation to the various investigations that occur after a death.

Dependent on time and resources they will accompany families to meetings with lawyers and with investigators from the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) or the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) as well as attend inquest hearings. The Caseworkers collate information gathered from previous deaths and from their experience of policy and practice and are a source of knowledge which is available to families and their legal teams. Where appropriate they will refer or signpost families to other specialist advice agencies.

Fundraising and Development Manager
- Steve Roberts

The Fundraising and Development Manager is responsible for co-ordinating and updating administrative, financial and governance systems. The role includes responsibility for developing and managing fundraising and devising strategies to secure the organisation's financial and supporter base.

Policy and Parliamentary Officer – Yasmin Khan (to December 2008)

The Policy and Parliamentary Officer was responsible for ensuring that INQUEST's concerns are fully considered by government, parliament and other policy makers during the process of reform of the inquest system. The Officer tracked the legislative and policy agenda to identify opportunities for the organisation to influence public policy and practice and supported the Co-Directors by undertaking policy analysis on matters with a direct impact on INQUEST's service users.

Information Worker – Richard Fontenoy

The Information Worker is responsible for monitoring statistics and analysis of emerging trends in deaths in custody. This post includes provision of information and statistical services to INQUEST staff, outside organisations and other interested parties, the improvement and maintenance of existing databases and overseeing the development of new systems. Other responsibilities include production of INQUEST's publications and maintenance of the website.

Volunteers, interns and work experience 2007-2008

- Alhannah Crewe
- Jo Easton
- Monique Fortune
- Emily Jeffrey
- Priya Khatri (work experience student)
- Hannah Klein (casework intern)
- Aisha Lepo (administrative intern)
- Alexandrine Pirlot de Corbion
- Noopur Talwar
- Fiona Wallace
- Nik Wood

Our team of volunteers and interns diligently supported the staff team during a very difficult year. Throughout the year they donated their time, skill and energy to enable us to maintain our levels of service. Most of our volunteers stay with us for at least three months and two have been with us for the long term. We also had an administrative internship arranged with HMP East Sutton Park for two days a week from December 2007-July 2008.

Staff as volunteers

Staff at INQUEST not only work in the voluntary sector but are actively encouraged to volunteer themselves and sit on a number of boards of trustees, including Women In Prison; the Centre for Corporate Accountability; National Bereavement Partnership; British Irish Rights Watch; War on Want; and the Newham Monitoring Project.

"I have spoken to a number of staff and they have all been very easy to talk to. Very patient, informative and understanding."

"All the staff are friendly and caring. It's them that make INQUEST work so well."

"We were helped through our ordeal by a wonderful group of people whose kindness knows no bounds...We are grateful to all of the people at INQUEST for giving a voice to bereaved families and for your determination to oppose the wrong and fight for right."

INQUEST Board 2007-2008

Louise Christian	Partner, Christian Khan Solicitors (Chair until October 2007)
Adam Sampson	Chief Executive, Shelter (Interim Chair from October 2007-October 2008)
Daniel Machover	Partner, Hickman and Rose solicitors (Chair from November 2008)
Dr. William Spence	Reader, Department of Physics, Queen Mary, University of London (Treasurer until September 2007)
Prof. Penny Green	School of Law, University of Westminster (until January 2008)
Adrienne Jemmott	Customer Advisor, Planning Reception, Reading Borough Council (until March 2007)
Rev. Arlington Trotman	Secretary, Churches Commission for Racial Justice (until March 2007)
Kevin Blowe	Community Involvement Unit Coordinator Aston-Mansfield (from December 2007)
Ruth Bunday	Partner, Harrison Bunday Solicitors (from December 2007)
Monica Collings	Strategic Planning Officer, Reading Borough Council (from December 2007)
Dexter Dias	Barrister, Garden Court Chambers (from December 2007)
Jennifer Nadel	Media Professional (from December 2007)
Prof. Joe Sim	School of Science, Liverpool John Moores University (from December 2007)
Roger Smith	Director, JUSTICE (from December 2007)

INQUEST Advisory Group

Our Advisory Group consists of a panel of leading practitioners in their fields of expertise who have contributed to the work of the organisation over many years. Their input is invaluable in formulating the policy of the organisation, and we also invite them to comment within the organisation on the content of our publications, policy documents, information pack and other areas where INQUEST can benefit from their wealth of experience and critical opinion.

Raju Bhatt	Partner, Bhatt Murphy Solicitors
Ruth Bunday	Partner, Harrison Bunday Solicitors
Jonathan Glasson	Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
Prof. Barry Goldson	Professor of Sociology, University of Liverpool
Tony Murphy	Solicitor, Bindman and Partners
Tim Owen QC	Barrister, Matrix Chambers
Prof. Mick Ryan	Law Department, University of Greenwich
Mark Scott	Partner, Bhatt Murphy Solicitors
Prof. Phil Scraton	Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice Queen's University, Belfast
Prof. Joe Sim	School of Science, Liverpool John Moores University
Dr Richard Stone	Panel member of the David 'Rocky' Bennett Inquiry, President of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality and Vice-Chair of the Runnymede Trust
Leslie Thomas	Barrister, Garden Court Chambers
Jane Winter	Director, British-Irish Rights Watch

Policy advice

We would also like to thank members of the INQUEST Lawyers Group who have assisted us in preparing policy documents and responses to consultations.

TIMELINE 2007

JANUARY

- Prepare a joint briefing with Liberty, Prison Reform Trust (PRT) and JUSTICE for the third reading of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill in the House of Lords.
- Welcome the Coroners Bill proposed by Constitutional Affairs Minister Harriet Harman.
- Present paper on child deaths at the Rainer and YJB's conference "Keeping Children Safe in Secure Establishments".
- Attend launch of the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' annual report.

FEBRUARY

- Attend the PRT annual lecture 2007 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams on "Criminal justice - building responsibility".
- Joint briefing with Liberty, PRT and JUSTICE for the Report stage of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill in the House of Lords.
- Consulted by HM Courts Inspectorate on inquests prior to their inspection in Northern Ireland.
- Significant press and parliamentary work around opening of Gareth Myatt inquest.
- Advise army families from Deepcut & Beyond on public funding for inquests at House of Commons.

MARCH

- We give qualified welcome to Baroness Corston's report on women in prison.
- Death of Gilly Mundy.
- Deborah Coles profiled by *The Guardian* for "A Day Inside" special on prisons and people whose work involves them.

APRIL

- Significant press and parliamentary work around opening of Adam Rickwood inquest.

MAY

- Joint briefing with Liberty, Prison Reform Trust (PRT) and JUSTICE to the Commons on amendments to the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill.
- Letter in *The Guardian* on failure of the IPCC to bring disciplinary charges against some of the officers involved in the killing of Jean Charles de Menezes.
- Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) affiliates to INQUEST.
- Contribute to the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS) youth justice lecture.

JUNE

- Contribute to the CCJS debate "Ten years of criminal justice under Labour".

- Contribute to a MoJ Coroner Service Stakeholder Forum meeting with Minister of State Harriet Harman MP about the Coroners Bill.
- Highly significant verdict returned at Gareth Myatt inquest with extensive media work as a result.

JULY

- Participate in a Coroner Service Stakeholder Forum with Ministry of Justice officials about the Coroners Bill.
- Attend Crime and Society Foundation conference.
- Participate in Fawcett Society roundtable and launch of their report Women and the Criminal Justice System.
- Meet Association of Personal Injury Lawyers about coroners reform
- Corporate Manslaughter Act carried, with a three year delay period for the law covering deaths in custody to come into force.
- Brief Sally Keeble MP for adjournment debate on the death of Gareth Myatt.
- Participate in roundtable discussion around the independence and the values of the voluntary and community sector to launch the Centris report. (see page 30)

AUGUST

- Letter published in *The Guardian* on delays in holding inquests.

SEPTEMBER

- Publication of *Unlocking The Truth*, launched at memorial for Gilly Mundy held at Garden Court Chambers.
- Attend British Irish Rights Watch lecture by South African lawyer and politician Kader Asmael.
- Attend TUC Congress to lobby for reform of inquest system.
- Participated in a workshop at funders' conference on campaigning charities.

OCTOBER

- Arranged and attended a meeting with Jack Straw MP about restraint of children with the families of Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood and their solicitor, Mark Scott.
- Attend Joint Committee on Human Rights session on restraint of children
- Attend meeting on the implementation of the recommendations of the Mubarek Inquiry
- Attend IPCC Advisory Group review of complaints system.
- Interviewed by Islamic Human Rights Commission for internet TV

NOVEMBER

- Re-launch of *Inquest Law* magazine.
- Contribute to and attend the annual United Families & Friends Campaign remembrance procession.
- Brief and then meet the joint chairs of the government's

review of restraint practices in Secure Training Centres alongside families of children who have died in custody.

- Contribute to the Nacro annual conference debate "Prisons full to bursting – What's to be done?" raising issues of child deaths in custody.
- Contribute to Institute of Race Relations workshop on deaths in custody.
- Meet CRUSE to discuss support for families following deaths in custody
- Attend Centre for Crime and Justice Studies lecture by Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green.
- Meet Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Bridget Prentice MP on absence of Coroners Bill from the Queen's Speech.
- Attend International Centre for Prison Studies Reception
- Meet Robert Fulton about the review of the Forum on Preventing Deaths in Custody
- Attend Police Actions Lawyers Group meeting on IPCC stocktake submission
- Presentation to the Ministerial Roundtable on Prison Suicides on family experiences.

- Attend Police Actions Lawyers Group meeting on IPCC stocktake submission
- Question Justice Minister Jack Straw MP about coroners reform at Howard League meeting.

DECEMBER

- We win the Liberty & JUSTICE Human Rights Award for 2007 jointly with Kids' Company.
- Meet Ministry of Justice ministers and brief Parliamentarians on the failure to proceed with a coroners' reform bill.
- New Casework Service Manager appointed.
- Spoke at NAPO rally to protest at cuts in the probation service alongside other justice organisations and NGOs.
- Attend IPCC Advisory Group feedback day on Stocktake
- Attend recording of INQUEST's BBC Radio 4 appeal by Linton Kwesi Johnson
- CHECK date Restraint Review Evidence

TIMELINE 2008

JANUARY

- Meet David Hanson MP, Minister of State at Ministry of Justice, alongside Criminal Justice Alliance on the issue of youth restraint.
- Contribute to the MoJ Coroner Service Stakeholder Forum.
- Attend Forum on Preventing Deaths in Custody
- Meet Royal British Legion on funding for inquests
- Significant press and parliamentary work around opening of Petra Blanksby inquest.
- Hold inquest lawyers seminar in Manchester.
- INQUEST condemns the government's proposals for secret inquests and is quoted in the *Independent on Sunday* with reference to deaths in mental hospitals.
- Attend Committee on the Administration of Justice annual report launch.
- Comment on HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' annual report and, together with Gwen Calvert, are quoted by BBC with reference to self-inflicted deaths in London prisons.

FEBRUARY

- Beginning of a year-long liaison with NSPCC on the restraint of children.
- Petra Blanksby inquest concludes with jury and coroner critical of the Prison Service and Health Dept. We are quoted in the media as supporting these concerns.

- BBC Radio 4 broadcast appeal by Linton Kwesi Johnson for INQUEST.
- Hold family forum in London for 14 family members who share their experiences of being bereaved by a death in custody.
- Gareth Price inquest concludes with verdict critical of the Prison Service and Youth Offending Teams; INQUEST widely quoted in the media afterwards.
- High Court rules that the Secure Training Centre Rules allowing wider use of restraint are unlawful.
- Make presentation on INQUEST's work to IPCC Commissioners.
- Attend launch of the Committee on the Administration of Justice report on learning the lessons from the conflict in Northern Ireland
- Interviewed on BBC Radio 4 *Law in Action* about proposals for "secret" inquests.
- Attend conference of research project on the impact of criminal process on health care ethics and practice.

MARCH

- Attend Ministerial Round Table on Suicide in Prisons
- NSPCC and INQUEST host a reception at the House of Lords on restraint of children, addressed by the families of Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood.
- Quoted in the media on the inadequacy of existing and proposed inquest powers and procedures, including a letter in *The Guardian*.

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- Contribute to TUC Women's Conference and speak at meeting on deaths of women in prison.

APRIL

- Quoted at length in articles in *The Times* and *Legal Action* on the inadequacies of the IPCC following resignation of Police Actions Lawyers Group from their Advisory Board.
- Launch of *Dying on the Inside* at the House of Commons. INQUEST is widely quoted in press and broadcast coverage of the book and of the issues of women in prison generally.
- Inaugural Gilly Mundy memorial debate at the SOAS, organised in Gilly's memory by the Newham Monitoring Project, the subject for discussion was the issue of racism in Britain.
- Attend and speak about INQUEST at IPCC family liaison conference.
- Attend and contribute to meeting organised by Penal Reform International on mental health of prisoners.
- Attend Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission meeting on "secret" inquests at House of Commons.
- Hold ILG meeting on the Counter Terrorism Bill and "secret" inquests.

MAY

- Centre for Crime & Justice Studies periodical *CJM* publishes an overview of our work.
- Quoted in *The Independent* about the police shooting of Mark Saunders.

- Contribute to the International Harm Reduction conference on prisoners and drug use in Barcelona.
- Following the untimely death of Pauline Campbell INQUEST wrote a number of articles and contributed to a radio programme celebrating her work and spoke at her funeral.
- We welcome government announcement of intention to introduce a Coroners Bill.

JUNE

- Meet Tony McNulty MP, Minister at the Home Office, about the Counter Terrorism Bill's provision for "secret" inquests.
- Chickenshed Theatre Company benefit performance of *As the mother of a brown boy...* for INQUEST at Toynbee Hall in east London.
- Attend Ministry of Justice Coroner Service Stakeholder Forum.
- Give evidence to Howard League Commission on Prisons
- Attend Children's Rights Alliance parliamentary briefing in House of Commons on UN protocol on the rights of the child.

JULY

- Make presentation to the Parliamentary All Party Penal Affairs Group AGM
- Contribute to The New Left Policy Forum on Criminal Justice, House of Commons.
- Coroners (Amendment) Rules and new interim guidance on rule 43 recommendations come into force.
- Court of Appeal confirms the illegality ruling of the High Court

regarding the Secure Training Centre rules governing restraint.

- Make a presentation on deaths of women in prison at the twelfth annual ICOPA conference on prison abolition in London.
- Contribute to the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies Youth Justice Panel.

AUGUST

- Attend Forum For Preventing Deaths In Custody Family Liaison Group
- INQUEST signs, jointly with 33 others, a letter printed in *The Guardian* condemning "Titan" prisons.
- Meet representatives of the Metropolitan Police Department of Professional Standards on how to work with bereaved families and learn from inquests.

SEPTEMBER

- Participate in the IPCC stocktake review of its work.
- Significant press and parliamentary work around opening of Jean Charles de Menezes inquest.
- Attend TUC Congress to lobby about "secret" inquests and INQUEST's work.
- Meet National Children's Bureau on child deaths in custody and child bereavement.
- Attend and contribute to seminar on police custody inspection organised by HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

OCTOBER

- Legal Action Group publish updated edition of *Inquests: A Practitioner's Guide*, written by ILG members.
- Government removes "secret" inquest proposals from the Counter Terrorism Bill.
- Lords amend Counter Terrorism Bill to facilitate the hearing of intercept evidence at inquests.
- United Families & Friends Campaign annual remembrance procession held in London.
- INQUEST signs, jointly with four others, a letter printed in *The Guardian* on the UN's critical report on child justice.
- Speak on women's deaths at the annual CAPITA Deaths in Police Care conference.
- Host a fringe meeting at the NAPO AGM with Yvonne Scholes and Carol Pounder.
- Introduce the inaugural Pauline Campbell Memorial Lecture by Erwin James at The Bluecoat in Liverpool (see page 23).
- Chair first bi-lateral Prison and Probation Ombudsman investigators and Family Liaison Officers meeting with ILG members.
- Attend and contribute to discussion chaired by Home Office Minister Tony McNulty MP at the presentation of the IPCC's stocktake findings.
- Attend reception marking appointment of Keir Starmer QC as Director of Public Prosecutions.

NOVEMBER

- Government defeats Lords' amendments to the Counter

Terrorism Bill on intercept evidence at inquests in the Commons, and the Lords concede.

- First Family Forum held in Manchester for families in north west England.
- Give Ellen Heaton Memorial Lecture at Swartmore College in Leeds.
- Contribute to Legal Action Group training for inquest practitioners.
- Attend and contribute to Action for Prisoners Families conference.
- Meet and brief representatives of the Council of Europe Committee on the Prevention of Torture.
- Present paper at HM Inspectorate of Prisons training day.
- Attend and contribute to meeting of Independent Monitoring Boards.
- Attend Howard League AGM.

DECEMBER

- Coroners and Justice Bill 2009 announced in the Queen's Speech.
- Open verdict at the Jean Charles de Menezes inquest, with INQUEST making extensive media comment afterwards.
- Attend launch of MIND's legal service.
- Meet Assistant General Secretary of Napo about coroners reform and proposed legislation.
- Meet Ministry of Justice Coroners Section about "secret" inquest proposals.

Co-Directors' overview of the years 2007-2008

In what have been a very difficult and challenging couple of years for the organisation we have nonetheless managed to achieve a significant amount. This was recognised when we received the Liberty and JUSTICE Human Rights Award on in December 2007 (see box out).

Working successfully alongside others to ensure the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 will apply to deaths in custody was a landmark achievement (see page 28). During the debates on the Bill there was the widest-ranging recent parliamentary discussion on deaths in custody which culminated in a review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody (see page 28).

Our work on the shocking deaths of children in custody has also generated widespread support and increasing awareness of the serious problems that need to be addressed. We note that many large organisations have now made this issue one that they champion (see pages 24-25).

Publication of our books *Unlocking the Truth* and *Dying on the Inside* (see pages 18-20) were also highly significant for INQUEST and placed the voices and experiences of the families we work with on the agenda.

On a less positive note 2007-08 saw a series of setbacks for the struggle to achieve greater accountability following deaths in custody. Families of some of those who have died in police custody have been repeatedly dismayed by the decision making at the IPCC where

Human Rights Award 2007

INQUEST was announced on 10 December 2007 as joint winner of the **Human Rights Award** alongside Kids Company. The award was in recognition of the organisation's *"high-quality specialist casework [on deaths in custody] and ... commitment to providing incontrovertible evidence of the serious human rights abuses of children in custody"*. The Human Rights Awards are held annually by Liberty and JUSTICE to commemorate Human Rights Day.

disciplinary action has not been taken in the cases of Roger Sylvester or Jean Charles de Menezes. Further, ongoing concerns remain about the quality of investigation and the approach and attitude of the investigating authorities, particularly where there are concerns about the use of excessive force.

The long awaited Coroners Bill was not included in the Queen's Speech in November 2007, to the surprise of all those involved, including officials at the Ministry of Justice. Controversial proposals for secret inquests appeared in the Counter Terrorism Bill 2008 and successfully campaigning to overturn the proposals unexpectedly took a significant amount of our limited staff resources.

We remained focussed on the main aims of the organisation – to provide our casework service to bereaved families, to continue our campaigning work on deaths of children in custody, and on deaths in custody in general and for better post-death mechanisms

including reform of the inquest system in general with a specific focus on contentious deaths, improving the

investigation systems into deaths in custody and for greater accountability.



INQUEST patron Benjamin Zephaniah speaking at the memorial for Gilly Mundy in July 2007

Getting the message across

Media work

In 2007/2008 we issued 77 press releases informing the media and wider contacts about key cases (where the family wanted media coverage) and policy issues. The majority were on individual cases and inquests but we also issued press releases on coronial reform, deaths of children in custody, the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody review, corporate manslaughter and publication of the Corston Report. All of our press releases are available on www.inquest.org.uk

We regularly brief the media on the underlying issues relating to cases and the inquest system and are also often able to provide more extensive briefing documents to assist with articles and programmes. Both broadcast and print media have covered many of the issues raised by our cases and we were quoted extensively in both the local and national newspapers and we frequently give radio and television interviews.

Networking and attendance at conferences

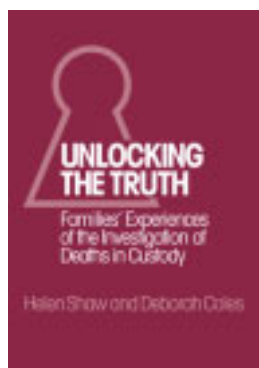
We contributed to a range of training events and conferences and attended events where we raised issues arising from casework with policy makers (see timelines for 2007-2008). We continued our work within the trade union movement and attended the Trades Union Congress in September 2007 and spoke at the Women's TUC Conference event for International

Women's Day 2008. Other examples include presenting a paper at the Penal Reform International one day conference in 2008 on mental health and prisoners; speaking at the International Harm Reduction Association's conference in Barcelona in May 2008; presenting a paper at a seminar organised by the Youth Justice Board and Rainer in January 2007 on issues raised by the deaths of children in custody and the need for a Standing Commission on Deaths in Custody.

Articles published in 2007-2008 include:

- "Dying for Justice? PCS votes to support INQUEST" – PCS members' magazine *PCS View* (June 2007)
- Counterblast on the IPCC – Home Office publication *Inside Track* (July/August 2007)
- "Two years on: Still no Justice 4 Jean" – *Labour Briefing* (September 2007)
- "Child Deaths In Custody" – *Safer Society* (Winter 2007/2008)
- "The Big Picture: The forgotten bereaved" - *Community Care* (October 2007)
- "Deaths in Detention", *CJM*, (March 2008)
- Contributed chapter to the book *Unlocking Democracy* (Dec 2008) alongside contributions from the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.
- INQUEST also contributes a regular column to *Socialist Lawyer* magazine.

Unlocking the Truth – families’ experiences of the investigation of deaths in custody



INQUEST's book *Unlocking the Truth* was launched at Garden Court Chambers in September 2007.

Unlocking the Truth is evidence-based report on the

experiences of bereaved families of the investigation process and inquest system following deaths in custody, giving voice to those families and presents their experience in their own words situated within a description of the procedures they face. We draw attention to the changes that need to be made to ensure that the investigation and inquest system are compliant with human rights standards, respect bereaved people and ensure democratic accountability of state institutions.

During the writing of *Unlocking the Truth*, hundreds of people died in detention, many in deeply troubling circumstances. The purpose of the report is to document the experiences families and to inform the government's reform of coronial law in the Coroners and Justice Bill 2009 and the operation of the new investigation systems. The report makes explicit what is necessary for the government to achieve their commitment to "an improved service for bereaved people and others who interact with the coroner system [and] more effective coroners' investigations." (*Coroner Reform: The Government's Draft Bill, 2006*)

Unlocking the Truth exists to inform policy makers and practitioners from both official and voluntary organisations, and describes both good and bad practice. It aims to improve and develop practice of all those who work with bereaved families – coroners, coroner's officers, investigators, counsellors and therapists – as well as to provide key tools for legal and other practitioners, especially those who represent bereaved families in the coroners courts. We are grateful to Dr Milena Nuti for her patience and logical and constructive work with us to craft the report into a publishable format.

It is the second of two reports that form INQUEST's project *Study of families' experiences of the investigation of deaths that require an inquest* funded by the Nuffield Foundation. The first, published in November 2003, *How the inquest systems fails bereaved people – INQUEST's submission to the Fundamental Review of Coroner Services*, set out our concerns about the thematic problems with the inquest system irrespective of circumstances of death.

- *Unlocking the Truth* can be ordered online from www.inquest.org.uk.

"[I] received letters and information by post and the information pack was very informative straight after losing my son and prepared me for what I was going to be dealing with."

Deaths of Women in Prison

Inquests into deaths of four women in prison show need for urgent reform

The inquests into the deaths of four women in prison opened on 7 April 2008. The women were Vicky Robinson, aged 26, who died in February 2005 in HMP New Hall; Sheena Kotecha, aged 22, who died in April 2004 in HMP Brockhill; Lisa Woodhall, aged 28, who died in October 2006 in HMP Eastwood Park; and a 30 year old woman who died in March 2005 in HMP Holloway. Taken collectively these deaths demonstrate the grave problems in the female prison estate and evidence was heard at the inquests detailing the vulnerabilities of the women and the inadequacy of care they received whilst in prison.



INQUEST launched its major new report *Dying on the Inside: Examining Women's Deaths in Prison* in Parliament a week before the inquests began. The same

evening we held a reception at Garden Court Chambers attended by lawyers, policy makers, people from other NGOs alongside families. At the House of Commons book launch, chaired by Baroness Stern, *Dying on the Inside* received cross party support. As Julie Morgan, Labour MP and member of the Justice Committee said, "The clear message from this book is that prison is not an appropriate place for women. We hope the government will listen to that message...the message that comes

across to me is that these are all preventable deaths, that is the saddest point that can be made."

Kirsty Blanksby, whose twin sister died in Newhall prison in 2003, spoke powerfully about the systemic failures that led to her sister's death. She described the prison system as "a dumping ground for women with mental health problems". Several of the families who contributed to the book were also present and made significant contributions, not only about the inappropriateness of prison for women, but also about the failings of the investigative process and the inequalities of legal funding for families. Their presence reinforced the central core of the book, which speaks of the women as individuals - daughters, sisters, partners and mothers - not simply as statistics, and gives a voice to their families.

The report is the first comprehensive examination of women's deaths in prison and makes recommendations on how to prevent future deaths. Uniquely, it brings the views of bereaved families to the discussion. It identifies trends and patterns arising from the deaths and makes extensive recommendations and presents families' suggestions for changes in practice. The individual deaths are documented and examined in the context of the policies and practices in place across the women's prison estate and the role of other state agencies and the wider criminal justice system.

The three overarching recommendations in *Dying on the Inside* are for the abolition of prison as

the central response to women in the criminal justice system and the greater use of radical community based alternatives; non-means-tested public funding for legal representation for families at inquests; and for the creation of a Standing Commission on Custodial Deaths which would include a thematic stream on the deaths of women in prison.

The launch drew cross party support for the report and heard from families who had contributed to the project. INQUEST is now working to ensure the book's recommendations are implemented.

However, the key proposal from the Corston review of vulnerable women in the justice system which recommended closing all thirteen women's jails in England and Wales and replacing them with small house units holding up to 20 offenders was rejected by the government, as was another that supported the provision of non means-tested public funding for families' legal representation at inquests into deaths in prison.

- *Dying on the Inside* can be ordered online from www.inquest.org.uk.



Baroness Stern speaking at the launch of *Dying on the Inside* at the House of Commons in April 2008, with (l-r) Kirsy Blanksby and Marissa Sandler

Case example – Louise Giles

20 year old Louise Giles began to suffer from psychiatric problems in her early teens and in the years that followed she regularly self-harmed and exhibited disturbed behaviour. She had numerous contacts with mental health services and the criminal justice system during this period

Following a serious offence Louise was remanded into HMP New Hall, where she self-harmed prolifically and was frequently subject to suicide and self-harm monitoring procedures. On 11 March 2005 Louise was involved in an incident which resulted in her being re-categorised as Restricted Status and transferred to HMP Durham where she continued to exhibit signs of distress and mental illness and to self harm. Despite this, in the days before her death staff downgraded her to a “basic regime” without consulting healthcare staff or the visiting psychiatrist. This meant that she was without access to the distractions of tobacco, television and telephone calls that were helping her cope.

Louise Giles hanged herself on 21 August 2005. At the time Louise was one of just six women held in I Wing, previously the male close supervision centre, in HMP Durham. For much of its existence there was no senior manager with overall responsibility for I Wing, leaving both staff and prisoners feeling abandoned. Louise’s death raises concerns over the treatment of mentally ill women within the criminal justice system. It also raises serious questions about the failure of the Prison Service to act on well-documented concerns as to the psychological damage and increased risk of suicide the conditions at Durham were having on the women held there.

The inquest into her death lasted for over three weeks and concluded with a highly critical narrative verdict on 6 December 2007. Evidence was heard at the inquest from, among others, the inspection team leader from the Inspectorate of Prisons. Unlike the majority of other cases of this kind HMP Durham agreed to pay for all the family’s expenses during the inquest, a move welcomed by INQUEST. This included all travel, subsistence, accommodation, childcare provision and loss of earnings. As far as we are aware no other prison has offered this level of financial support to bereaved families.

Despite representations from Louise’s family the coroner refused to examine the wider policy issues concerning the placement of young mentally ill female offenders, and more specifically the placing of Louise, in HMP Durham.

INQUEST worked alongside the family and their representatives from the outset and a caseworker attended a significant proportion of the inquest. As a result of liaison between INQUEST and the Prison Inspectorate, crucial information came to light about conditions at HMP Durham which had not been revealed in the PPO or Prison Service investigations. The disclosure of this information during the course of the inquest exposed failings both in the management of the women's wing at Durham and the investigative process.

Pauline Campbell

INQUEST pays tribute to passionate campaigner



Pauline Campbell was found dead on 15 May 2008 on the grave of her daughter Sarah.

We advised and supported Pauline after Sarah died

aged 18 in HMP Styal in January 2003 and through the long and difficult investigation and inquest process which followed. Her grief and anger at the horrendous circumstances in which her daughter died and the insensitive way she, as a bereaved parent, was treated after the death motivated her tireless campaigning to expose the continuing death toll in women's prisons. Pauline became a fearless, formidable and passionate campaigner and a persistent thorn in the side of the state.

Pauline spoke for the first time in public on the issue at INQUEST's annual general meeting in March 2003. She also spoke eloquently at the parliamentary launch of INQUEST's report *Dying on the Inside* (see pages 19-20), a book to which she contributed her experiences following Sarah's death.

The emotional impact of a death in custody on families - often exacerbated by state secrecy, insensitivity, delay and lack of accountability - should not be forgotten. Pauline Campbell was haunted by the appalling treatment and neglect of her vulnerable daughter in

custody, described by the inquest jury as a failure in the duty of care owed to Sarah by the prison. Pauline's subsequent campaigning and protests was her way of holding the Prison Service to account and influenced the government into setting up Baroness Corston's review of women in the criminal justice system. She forced the issue on to the political agenda and she had a wonderful knack of holding ministers to account whenever she had the chance.

Pauline was committed not just to campaigning but also to helping INQUEST's work in supporting bereaved families. She was one of a number of bereaved parents who turned their own personal loss into a collective response to injustice and state neglect. The need for this campaigning work to continue is demonstrated by the fact that (as of December 2008) another 41 women have taken their own lives in prison since the death of Sarah Campbell.

Pauline Campbell was buried in the same grave as her daughter Sarah on 30 May 2008. Members of the INQUEST casework team attended the service and read a tribute to Pauline's memory. In December 2008, HM Coroner for Cheshire, Nicholas Rheinberg (who had heard the inquest into the death of Sarah Campbell as well as all the others into deaths of women in HMP Styal), recorded that Pauline took her own life, by means of an overdose of the same anti-depressants as her daughter.

INQUEST's Co-director Deborah Coles contributed an interview about Pauline to the BBC Radio 4 obituaries programme *Last Word* in May 2008, and also introduced the inaugural Pauline Campbell Memorial Lecture by Erwin James at The Bluecoat in Liverpool in October. The lecture was followed by a discussion of the issues raised, chaired by Joe Sim, Professor of Criminology at Liverpool John Moores University and a member of the INQUEST Board.

INQUEST will continue to work alongside families, lawyers, activists, parliamentarians to fight for the

recommendations in *Dying on the Inside* not only to be accepted in theory but in practice. As Pauline Campbell said shortly before her death:

"My message to ministers is: stop the rhetoric, and get on with the action. Stop the shillyshallying, and show some moral leadership for once. Implement the Corston recommendations, and shelve the plans for 'titan' jails, then perhaps young mothers like Lisa Marley wouldn't die."



Pauline Campbell (second left) carries a banner in memory of her daughter Sarah at the 7th annual deaths in custody remembrance procession, October 2005

Policy and Parliamentary work

Our policy and parliamentary work gained momentum in 2007-2008 – years in which deaths in custody were subject to more parliamentary debate than ever before. We celebrated parliamentary success with our work on the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and continued lobbying towards our long term goal of reform of the inquest system (including to counteract proposals to hear some inquests in private), documented families' experiences of the post-death investigations process and campaigned on the scandal of child and women's deaths in custody. Below we outline some of our main thematic areas of work.

Child deaths in custody

One of the key priorities for our work was the issue of child deaths in custody and much of our policy and parliamentary work focussed on raising the issues that arose from the inquests in 2007 into the deaths of 14 year old Adam Rickwood and 15 year old Gareth Myatt. Throughout 2007-2008 we steadfastly and doggedly brought the issue into mainstream political debate through a combination of lobbying, judicial challenges and media work.

We produced a number of written briefings on child deaths in custody including detailed briefings on the deaths on Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt, a briefing on the government's change to the Secure Training Centre rules (see below), a submission to the parliamentary Joint Committee on

Human Rights on restraint in Secure Training Centres and a detailed 40 page report to the joint review of restraint undertaken by the Department of Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice. We circulated these briefings and reports widely to policy makers, parliamentarians and the press and they are all available to download from the INQUEST website.

We spoke at parliamentary meetings and sector conferences on the issue and briefed child rights and penal reform organisations as well as parliamentarians. We extended our network of organisations we work closely with on this issue and have forged particularly close relations with the Office of the Children's Commissioner. In March 2008 we attended a highly successful parliamentary launch of the NSPCC campaign on children and restraint. The event was jointly organised with INQUEST, the NSPCC and Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE). Pam Wilton, mother of Gareth Myatt and Carol Pounder, Adam Rickwood's mother, both spoke as did Deborah Coles.

We also continued to campaign for a public inquiry into the treatment of children in custody and we used this as the overarching proposal for our lobbying work and raised it at ministerial level on numerous occasions. We held a private meeting with Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the families of Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt, asking him to put in place such an inquiry.

In July 2007 the government introduced a statutory instrument which would allow extension of the use of restraint on children in custody for reasons of "good order and discipline". We campaigned strongly against this rule change over the following months. This included sending written briefings to parliamentarians and speaking at parliamentary meetings, encouraging MPs to lay down objections to the statutory instrument and then bringing a judicial review of the actual legislation. In another significant victory for INQUEST and other child rights campaigners, the Court of Appeal abolished the restraint rules on the grounds that they were unlawful in July 2008.

Despite letters from INQUEST, the NSPCC and the CRAE urging the government to publish the report of the review of restraint in juvenile secure settings to allow concerned organisations and the mothers of Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt the

opportunity for consultation - the very things criticised by the Court of Appeal judgment – the government refused and continually delayed publication of the review until December 2008.

INQUEST's concerns about child deaths continue to be taken up at senior political levels. In June 2008 INQUEST attended a meeting organised by CRAE with Professor Lucy Smith from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child where we raised our concerns about the treatment of children in custody and the need for an inquiry into child deaths.

"Without INQUEST we would never find any answers about the degrading deaths of our children, the government would like it to be swept under the carpet. INQUEST are not prepared to let this happen and they leave no door locked."

Inquest into the death of 16 year old Gareth Price reveals multiple failings by statutory agencies

The inquest held in February 2008 into the death of 16 year old Gareth Price, who hanged himself in a segregation cell at Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution in January 2005, found that failings by every agency Gareth came into contact with contributed to his death. Gareth's family contacted INQUEST some six months after his death and the team remained actively involved with them. Caseworkers attended the inquest for several days and provided specialist information to the legal team

Following the verdict, which came at the end of a three and a half month inquest, the coroner wrote a series of letters to no less than seven organisations and individuals including the Minister for Prisons and the Youth Justice Board with recommendations for reform and action. INQUEST has ongoing concerns about Lancaster Farms YOI in the light of a further child, 15 year old Liam McManus, taking his life there in November 2007.

Coroners reform, 'secret' inquest proposals and the Coroners and Justice Bill

Coronial reform has been a long term priority for INQUEST. We began 2007 with good news from the Department of Constitutional Affairs (since absorbed into the Ministry of Justice from May 2007) that government broadly agreed with our proposals on rule 43 reports that coroners can make to prevent future deaths and the government was planning to change the law in this area. Our working relationship with the government departments responsible for coroners was cemented through membership of two forums dealing with the coronial system; the Coroner Service Stakeholder Forum which comprised senior figures from the Coroners Unit at the Ministry of Justice, representatives from other relevant government departments (such as the Department of Health) and coroners; and the Ministerial Voluntary Group where the minister responsible for coronial reform, Bridget Prentice MP, met voluntary organisations concerned with the inquest system. In addition to this we have regularly met and been in contact with officials and ministers from the Department of Constitutional Affairs/Ministry of Justice concerning the Bill and have contributed to numerous government consultations on reforming the system.

INQUEST expected a new Coroners Bill to be included in the Queen's Speech in November 2007 but much to our disappointment - and for the second year running - the Bill was dropped. We immediately briefed parliamentarians in both Houses on our concerns and as a result the issue was

raised in the debate on the Queen's Speech in the Lords:

"I am also disappointed and somewhat angered that a coroners Bill, which was promised by the Minister, was not included (in the Queen's Speech). Families are experiencing serious delay in the holding of inquests, the narrow remit and problems with public funding. Urgent reforms are needed"

Lord Dholakia, 12 November 2007

In the following weeks we met Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Bridget Prentice MP and called for interim measures to be put in place to deal with the crisis in the inquest system. Members of the ILG also wrote to the minister echoing our concerns.

Measures were introduced to improve the rule 43 powers of coroners as an interim measure to a reformed system, and these came into effect on 17 July 2008 as the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008 giving coroners a wider remit to make reports to prevent future deaths and impose a duty on relevant persons or organisations to respond to the report (albeit not a duty to have to actually *act* on coroners' recommendations). As part of the changes, the Ministry of Justice indicated it will be disseminating summaries of rule 43 reports and their responses on a regular basis but this has still not happened. New guidance for coroners has also been issued on how to use the new rules.

Alongside these developments unexpected and highly controversial proposals seeking to give the Home Secretary powers to issue certificates to hold 'secret' inquests in any case where

he or she believes that material will be revealed which is contrary to the public interest were included in the Counter Terrorism Bill published in January 2008 and would have amended the Coroners Act. The proposed amendments would have enabled some inquests to be conducted at least partly in private, with government-vetted coroners and government-approved counsel overseeing the 'sensitive material'. Bereaved families and their legal representatives - as well as the public at large and the media - would have been excluded from the process.

The proposals amounted to an attack on the independence and transparency of the coronial system. They were fundamentally flawed; unsupported by evidence; disconnected from legal principles; and were devised without any consultation with stakeholders. We were particularly alarmed that the proposals should be contained in proposed Counter Terrorism legislation. This implies that there have been real issues that have arisen in relation to inquests that have involved questions of 'counter terrorism' and we were unable to identify any such circumstances

Concerted campaigning by INQUEST (with the support of a broad coalition including Liberty, JUSTICE, the Royal British Legion, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission) resulted in cross-party parliamentary opposition to the proposal, including from the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Justice Committee. It was announced on 14 October that the controversial clauses had been dropped from the bill. The victory was an important one for INQUEST and we will continue to campaign against any such proposals - which the government has indicated will be included, possibly in amended

form, in the Coroners and Justice Bill 2009.

INQUEST urged peers to support the introduction of a new clause into the Counter Terrorism Bill 2008 to amend the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2005 (RIPA). This would allow an article 2-compliant inquest to take place where sensitive police evidence exists when a High Court judge sitting as a coroner determines that the material concerned is central in ascertaining how a person came to die, bringing the treatment of such material at inquests broadly in line with the way it is treated in criminal proceedings. The amendment was passed in the Lords on 11 November by 139 to 136 votes, and was defeated in the Commons the week after and subsequently defeated in the Lords following government promises to bring forward improved proposals in a Coroners Bill.

The Coroners and Justice Bill 2009 was finally announced in the Queen's Speech in December 2008 and published in January 2009. Controversially, it included renewed proposals for "secret" inquests which were virtually identical to those withdrawn from the Counter Terrorism Bill. Working on the Bill, both to oppose these proposals, but also to strengthen its wider proposals for reform remains a priority for the organisation in 2009.

"I would like to add that the inquest system needs to be changed – families have very little say and in some cases no satisfaction, it's our loss after all not the coroner's!"

INQUEST presentation to parliamentary All Party Group on Penal Affairs

INQUEST raised concerns about issues arising from our casework at the annual general meeting of the parliamentary All Party Group on Penal Affairs in July 2008. Deborah Coles spoke about the problems with the investigation of deaths in custody and the inquest system, black and minority ethnic deaths, funding issues, and child deaths in custody. Two of the families INQUEST work with, including Peter Smith, father of Rebecca Smith who died in HMP Buckley Hall in June 2004, also spoke at the meeting and gave powerful testimonies regarding their experiences. MPs and peers were particularly moved by the family's difficulties in obtaining non means-tested funding for their legal representation at inquests and vowed to take up the issue with parliamentary colleagues.

Corporate accountability

A significant amount of our resources in the first half of 2007 was spent on the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. INQUEST has long supported reform in the area of corporate accountability and has worked with families who have lost loved ones in disasters and in deaths at work. We produced briefings at every stage of the Bill's parliamentary progress and lobbied to get the remit of the legislation extended to cover deaths in custody. We gathered substantial support in the House of Lords on this issue and alongside other penal reform NGOs – the Prison Reform Trust, Liberty and JUSTICE – co-ordinated a cross party campaign working closely

with Lords and MPs. We held a meeting in parliament for MPs where family representatives spoke about how an extension of the legislation was important and we gave regular advice and case studies to parliamentarians working to get the Bill amended. After a series of lengthy battles and five defeats for the government in the House of Lords the government finally agreed to include deaths in custody in the remit of the Bill, albeit with a three year delay in its implementation. This was a great success for our organisation and our work on this subject raised our parliamentary profile considerably.

Policy advice and external links

INQUEST has continued to be on sit on official external groups such as the IPCC Advisory Board, the Ministerial Group on Prison Suicides and the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody. We contributed to the review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody, offering in-depth critiques to the consultants undertaking the review about how the forum was functioning and how it should be improved. Linked into this was a research project we began on our proposals for a Standing Commission on Custodial Deaths – our preferred proposal for the best approach for a permanent body dealing with issues related to deaths in custody.

INQUEST made a submission to the Independent Police Complaints Commission's Stock Take consultation in 2008. The consultation asked for comments on how far the IPCC was succeeding against its original aims and on its new proposals for improving the way local police forces deal with the majority of complaints, excluding

deaths and serious injuries, at a lower level.

INQUEST's submission raised our ongoing concerns about the treatment of families by the IPCC and on the quality of the decision making in their reports. We also contributed to a seminar attended by the then-Policing Minister Tony McNulty and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Iain Blair, among others, where we raised concerns that a review of how deaths and serious injuries are investigated was needed.

We have broadened our work within the trade union movement, speaking at trade union events and working with trade unionists around the corporate manslaughter legislation. In 2007 the Public and Commercial Services Union, one of the UK's largest trade unions with nearly 325,000 members, affiliated to INQUEST

Chickenshed benefit performance for INQUEST

A benefit performance by Chickenshed Theatre Company of *As the Mother of a Brown Boy...* in June 2008 at Toynbee Studios in London was a huge success with over 50 family members that INQUEST works with joining a sell out audience to watch a moving and inspiring performance. *As the Mother of a Brown Boy...* was shortlisted for "Best original work by a collective/ensemble" in the 2007 Total Theatre Awards and for the "Freedom of Expression Award" by Amnesty International at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2007.

The show is inspired by the life of Mischa Niering who died tragically following a police pursuit in London in 2005. It is an intensely moving piece using dance, physical theatre, live music and multimedia to present an extraordinary story of injustice, identity and love.

As the Mother of a Brown Boy... powerfully conveys the repercussions of a death in custody and INQUEST is proud to have collaborated with Chickenshed in bringing this important issue to the widest possible audience. 50% of the ticket price from the benefit was donated directly towards INQUEST's work.

In the story, a mother remembers the life, and untimely death, of her mixed race son and his struggle for identity in a multiracial society. The way in which the cast depict Mischa's childhood, hopes and dreams, as well as his alienation from society and ultimately the horror of his death and his mother's anguish is phenomenal. The lighting, use of multimedia, live music and dance is overwhelmingly effective in portraying the incident in which Mischa died, the inquest and the devastation wreaked on his loved ones. The impact on the audience was visibly emotional, with many brought to tears by the unfolding tragedy onstage.



The performance was followed by a panel discussion to a packed auditorium chaired by INQUEST Co-Director Deborah Coles alongside Mischa's mother Karen Niering; Imtiaz Amin, uncle of Zahid Mubarek who was murdered in Feltham Young Offender Institution; and journalist Raphael Rowe who served 10 years in prison before his wrongful conviction was overturned. We were also honoured to have Linton Kwesi Johnson read three of his intensely powerful poems at the discussion's conclusion, including his 1998 piece "Licence Fi Kill" on the subject of deaths in custody.

Organisational Development

We suffered a major trauma in the early part of 2007 when Gilly Mundy died, but with the support of friends and supporters, we started 2008 optimistically with new team members and a renewed Board of Trustees.

Gilly was a respected campaigner and much-loved caseworker who had the ability to connect with families on a human level and a generous and supportive colleague. INQUEST felt a state of shock after his death, the impact felt more keenly because of its size. INQUEST continued to work throughout the period after his death, but it was with an acute sense of loss and sadness. That the organisation managed to achieve what it did in the ensuing two years is a credit to it and to him.

In September 2007 Naomi Lumsdaine joined the Casework Team as a locum Caseworker before Scarlet Granville went on maternity leave in October, giving birth to a baby girl in the same month. In December 2007 Sian Griffiths started as the Casework Service Manager to lead the Casework Team. Naomi was a valued member of the team until May 2008 when she left to join the Prisoners' Advice Service. Scarlet returned from maternity leave in October 2008 and just as the team was settling back down, Yasmin Khan departed for a position at War on Want in December 2008.

During 2007, work and other personal commitments meant that some stalwart Board members stepped down from office. We must pay tribute to Penny Green, Adrienne Jemmott, Bill Spence and Revd. Arlington Trotman for their

years of dedicated service and support and wish them well for the future. Louise Christian stood down as Chair and Adam Sampson became our Interim Chair. One of his first tasks was to manage a process of open recruitment that brought seven new members to the Board in December 2007. We welcomed the new members, some of whom are long time supporters and others who are new to INQUEST, and over the course of 2008 developed a fruitful working partnership as we continued to deliver our vital services to bereaved families. By October 2008, Adam Sampson resigned from the Board due to work commitments and we ended the year seeking to recruit a Chair and Treasurer to further strengthen the Board. Our thanks go to Adam for steering us through a difficult period.

External evaluation

In July 2007 Centris launched its report *The Value and Independence of the Voluntary Sector*, a research project that was funded by a group of funders including the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and City Parochial Foundation. As one of the case studies, we participated in the roundtable table discussion that largely agreed that the Voluntary and Community Sector needs to maintain its values and independence to campaign for change on behalf of service users. During the research an observer noted about INQUEST: "They understand how you take all of what they have found and turn it in to recommendations for change of policy."

Casework

1) Casework service

Over more than 25 years, INQUEST has provided a complex casework service to families following a death in custody. What is less well known is that INQUEST also offers a general advice and information service to any bereaved person seeking help in relation to an inquest. Caseworkers also routinely provide advice to others who have an interest in a particular death, including MPs, solicitors and advice workers.

During 2007-2008 the casework team dealt with a total of 750 cases, with 272 of these brought forward from previous years (see table on page 37). This workload generated close to 3,900 casework-related telephone calls, including those relating to policies arising from our casework and media contact. Many others contact us by email or via our website. Our free Information Pack for families was downloaded nearly 23,000 times during 2007-2008.

The aim of our casework service is to advise and empower families through the provision of information and advice about their rights, as well as providing non-judgemental support at a time when this can sometimes be hard to access from more traditional routes. A crucial function of the inquest process is to reduce the risk of similar deaths in the future and our work shows that the active contribution of a family to the process is a crucial part of this preventative focus.

Families frequently comment on their sense of isolation and the lack of

information that is available to them – redressing this gap is at the core of our work. An analysis by INQUEST of its work showed that over 70% of families were given no information about where to go for advice and support when facing an inquest. After reading our Information Pack, the mother of a man who had committed suicide in February 2008 told us that it was: “very helpful, very scared of the inquest but feel a bit calmer now I’ve read the leaflet”.

Feedback from families also suggests that access to our service contributes to recovery and in turn to positive mental health. The NHS has identified that at least six people are affected significantly by every death and as such the service provided by INQUEST can be expected to be of far wider value to more than just those who access it directly in relation to 200 deaths each year.

“Really useful website...when I go to the inquest I feel I will not be as lost as I thought I would be.”

The death of Gilly Mundy in March 2007 represented a significant blow to the casework team which had to manage without his unique contribution and also with reduced resources for a number of months. However, the caseworkers worked hard to minimise the impact on the service provided to families. The recognition given to INQUEST’s “high quality specialist casework service” as a result of receiving a joint award of the Human Rights Award in 2007 was a significant acknowledgement of the role played by the casework team.

a) General Advice

We operate a unique telephone-based service offering free support, advice and information to anyone who has experienced a bereavement leading to an inquest. We provide a detailed information pack and leaflets including specific details of both deaths in prison and police custody and provide individual advice.

INQUEST can offer general advice about the inquest process and help callers contact any more specialist services. For example, road traffic related deaths are referred to RoadPeace, work related deaths to the Centre for Corporate Accountability and deaths in hospital to Action against

Medical Accidents (AvMA). We also monitor legal issues arising from these cases that concern the inquest system.

"I think that INQUEST does a wonderful job. Without them and their help I would have been at a loss on how to deal with certain aspects of my son's death."

"The information pack was invaluable at a time when we knew nothing about the process. "

Casework examples:

71 year old S died in sheltered accommodation after her emergency call-bell was not answered. Her daughter called INQUEST having been referred by the coroner's office. We encouraged her to speak with the coroner's office directly about her concerns and to produce a written list of questions she would like to raise at the inquest. We talked through her options for free legal advice, including Community Legal Services and the Citizens Advice Bureau. We also directed her to the information pack on the INQUEST website to help her learn about the processes of the coroners courts.

C, a young man aged 17, died by hanging in a park. His father felt excluded from the police and coronial investigation into C's death. He found our details on the internet. We reassured him of his right to ask questions at the inquest and how to maintain an open dialogue with the coroner's office. We discussed his options for legal representation. Since he was able to pay for a lawyer and eager to instruct one, we suggested two different firms operating in his area who have expertise in inquest law.

35 year old T was a voluntary patient at a psychiatric hospital in the West Midlands. She committed suicide outside the bounds of the hospital. Her partner found our details on the internet. She wanted to know how to raise concerns about T's care with both the hospital and the coroner. We took advice from the Mental Health Act Commission and gave T's partner information and suggestions as a result. We also referred her to AvMA and Rethink.

b) Deaths in Custody: Specialist Casework

When an inquiry relates to one of our priority areas - prison or police custody and psychiatric or immigration detention – we provide a complex casework service for which a named caseworker takes particular responsibility. The nature and extent of our involvement in each case will be determined by the level of concern raised by the death and the needs of the family. Whilst each family is allocated an individual caseworker, there is a very strong team ethos and others, including the Co-Directors, will offer support, knowledge and skills as they are needed.

“The service was extremely useful, in particular providing guidance on dealing with the inquest process and ensuring that I was prepared.”

Initial contact with a family can often be at a time of crisis and requires a speedy response in highly distressing circumstances. Our involvement generally begins with immediate specialist advice including finding legal representation for the family and explaining the investigative processes that will take place. Families need to be prepared for the complexity not only of the investigations, but of the problems relating to legal funding for inquests, which is not automatically available. A significant amount of time is spent helping families access funding for legal representation – something we continue to campaign for to be theirs by right.

We make a clear commitment to stay involved with a family until the end of the inquest. However, for many of the families matters do not end there, as

they may still be involved in other legal processes or in campaigning to prevent future deaths. In the months and years that pass waiting for the inquest to take place, the caseworker will often be involved not only in offering support and advice to the family, but in working as an integral part of the legal team, advising and supporting lawyers and providing detailed background information from similar cases.

Depending on the nature of the case and the family's needs, the casework service could include:

- arranging meetings with MPs
- carrying out press and media work
- linking families together to provide greater support
- arranging for families to attend other inquests
- attending meetings with the family and the investigating body
- attending the inquest
- following up on issues that emerge.

“The service provided to my family and I has provided us with all the information and support which has literally enabled us to survive the death of our son intact. Its strength comes from an absolute commitment to the service users.”

Our work with families is fundamental in informing our wider campaigning and parliamentary work. The consistent wish of all the families we work with is that their struggle to find answers may help to prevent the death of someone else.

Casework examples

Sean Rigg

Sean Rigg died in August 2008 after being arrested and taken to Brixton police station. Sean was a physically fit 40 year old black man who had mental health problems, and the lack so far of any explanation from the IPCC about the cause of his death is a serious concern not only to his family but also to the wider community.

Sean's family contacted INQUEST within hours of his death seeking urgent support and advice including the need for legal representation and a second post-mortem. The casework team provided intensive support and advice in the early days and since then been working closely with the family and their legal team in their fight for a full and robust investigation. Our involvement has included organising a meeting for the family with their MP Sadiq Khan as well as attendance at IPCC and other meetings as well as contact with the media. The inquest into Sean's death has yet to be held.

Kurt Howard

The jury at the inquest into the death of 32 year old Kurt Howard returned a detailed verdict which found that he died as a result of excessive restraint. Kurt died in 2002 in Cefn Coed hospital in Swansea whilst sectioned under the Mental Health Act. His family had to wait six years for the inquest into his death to take place.

During the five week hearing, evidence was heard which raised serious concerns about the treatment and care Kurt received whilst in hospital. The jury's seven page narrative verdict catalogued failings in staffing, training and facilities. INQUEST has ongoing concerns about the excessive levels of restraint in psychiatric institutions. It is deeply worrying that six years after Kurt's death there is still no mandatory training on the use of restraint in psychiatric hospitals as recommended by the Rocky Bennett Inquiry in 2003.

INQUEST was contacted by Kurt's stepfather shortly after his death. The casework team continued to support him and his wife over the next six years and invited them to several Family Forums. The caseworker put the family in touch with an experienced solicitor and worked closely with them on the case, recommending a barrister to represent the family, encouraging the coroner to instruct an expert in restraint and making representations to the Legal Services Commission urging them to reconsider their decision not to grant exceptional funding for the family. Kurt's family changed solicitors shortly before the inquest and INQUEST assisted them in identifying another solicitor who was willing to act on a pro-bono basis. The LSC agreed to part fund legal costs for the inquest and INQUEST arranged for the barrister to represent the family at that cost. The caseworker attended a conference with the family and lawyers prior to the inquest, prepared a press release, and arranged for the family to do a television interview during the inquest.

Mark Farrar

Mark Farrar was found hanging in the Vulnerable Prisoners Unit of HMP Lincoln in May 2006. He was an extremely vulnerable prisoner who had a history of schizophrenia and personality disorder and had self-harmed continuously throughout his sentence. Mark was moved to a total of eight prisons in seven months and had attempted suicide twice in the six weeks before his death. He had spent time on suicide watch in the hospital wing but was moved back to the VPU when the watch was closed shortly before he died. In his last visit by the psychiatrist two days before his death, the doctor stopped Mark's prescription for diazepam, a decision his family felt was directly related to a comment on a note on his medical records that Mark had been trading in the drug. The note was anonymous, unsubstantiated and no investigation into the allegation ever occurred. Mark denied the allegation strenuously and threatened to kill himself if his diazepam was stopped. He was not taken seriously and Mark died two days later.

Mark's mother contacted INQUEST seven months after he died. The caseworker provided her with advice and support and put her in touch with a solicitor. She did not qualify for public funding and was unable to pay privately. INQUEST acted as her representative and assisted in getting full disclosure of all of the documents, preparing written representations to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman on their report into the death, liaising with the coroner and securing a barrister to represent her at the inquest.

The jury returned a narrative verdict that he took his own life whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed, and that a number of factors contributed to his death, including: his history of mental illness; the amount transfers between prisons; his belief that he would be denied parole; withdrawal of his medication; the unsubstantiated and un-investigated claim that he had been trading in diazepam; distance from his family; and the failure of the system to recognise the cumulative effects of these factors.

Stephen Brown

In a case which raises serious concerns about the medical treatment and care of prisoners, an inquest jury sitting at Doncaster Magistrates Court exposed a litany of serious failings at the privately-run Doncaster Prison regarding the care of 23 year old Stephen Brown. Stephen died as a result of streptococcal septicaemia at Doncaster Royal Infirmary in March 2003, less than a week after arriving at the prison.

Stephen's mother contacted INQUEST shortly after his death. The caseworker advised her and kept in regular contact, providing her with emotional and practical support. INQUEST recommended an experienced barrister to represent the family and prepared a press release for the inquest. The caseworker attended several days of the inquest with the family.

During 2007-2008 the casework team have been especially concerned about the number of self-inflicted deaths of women in prison with nine deaths taking place. Other areas of particular significance have included the contentious deaths of BME people in custody, deaths of people with mental health problems and child deaths (covered in more detail on pages 24-25).

"All the staff at INQUEST are brilliant, they deserve a well-earned pat on the back. Without them we would never get anywhere at all. They never stop fighting for our human rights."

The casework team has been involved in a number of inquests in which juries have reached highly critical verdicts including failings in medical care in custody, the use of restraints and drug and alcohol related deaths in police custody. We continue to be disappointed at the unwillingness of the Crown Prosecution Service to consider prosecution despite critical verdicts.

"Straightforward, told me in a way I could understand. Always honest no matter if it disappointed. Gave me lots of information and encouragement and made more determined to fight my case."

INQUEST Family Forums

Family Forums were held in London and Manchester in February and November 2008 respectively. The Manchester event was the first time it had been possible to hold a Family Forum outside London and is something we would like to repeat.

The meetings are an opportunity for families to meet each other, share experiences, offer support and identify issues of concern which can be taken up by INQUEST. On both occasions, the families' feedback was very positive; they particularly valued the opportunity to talk to others in a similar situation and would have liked more time. The meetings also allow us to identify families who would be interested in more press or campaigning work and to set up systems to allow families to exchange contact details.

"You have understood everything we have experienced and felt, and have been at the end of the telephone when we needed to talk or ask questions. And although you are helping many other families in our position, we were never made to feel like one of many, you had time for us."

INQUEST caseload 2007-2008

Type	New cases 2007	New cases 2008	Brought forward	Total
Prison	74	58	158	290
Police	23	21	57	101
Other	132	170	57	359
All	229	249	272	750

Cases brought forward from years prior to 2007 formed a significant part of our caseload during 2007/2008. Often a case can involve work by inquest with families and their legal teams for many years before, during and after the inquest proceedings themselves and over the course of many years.

INQUEST case work service users 2007-2008

New in 2007	New in 2008	Brought Forward	Total
332	324	829	1485

INQUEST's service users include bereaved people and their legal representatives.

c) INQUEST Lawyers Group

We work in partnership with the INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG) to provide the casework service, working together on procedural and tactical matters. The ILG is a national pool of committed, experienced barristers, solicitors and law students - including the leading inquest and human rights practitioners in the country - who provide preparation and legal representation for bereaved families at inquests.

ILG members have access to an email group in which ideas and questions are discussed and information on developments in inquest law is exchanged. Members receive the high-quality magazine *Inquest Law*, the only specialist journal of its kind, published three times per year and also available to non-member subscribers. The journal is edited by the INQUEST staff team and is written by members of the ILG and other invited parties. A number of coroners have subscribed, and the magazine has received praise for its coverage of significant cases, inquests and judgments.

Membership details for the INQUEST Lawyers Group - and secure online fee payments - can be found at www.inquest.org.uk

“The case I was able to take to the inquest benefited enormously from information provided by INQUEST”
 “Without INQUEST where would I be? I lost my son and didn’t know who to turn to. Every solicitor I talked to laughed in my face or ran a mile. They found an excellent team of lawyers, provided information, made me feel less alone and offered support.”



Inquests: A practitioner's guide

A new fully-revised and updated edition of *Inquests: a practitioner's guide* (Legal Action

Group) was launched in October 2008. Written by three highly-experienced members of the ILG, the book is a guide to current inquest law, practice and procedure, and also lends a powerful voice to the debate for a more just, fair and effective inquest system.

It contains historical detail and a comprehensive analysis of future developments which INQUEST contributed to and is invaluable to all those who share the view that the coronial system is in need of fundamental reform.

- Copies of the Guide can be ordered from www.lag.org.uk.

Funding and finances to 31 March 2008

The organisation was able to achieve a significant amount in 2007/2008 despite the tragic loss of Gilly Mundy which adversely affected our fundraising capacity. Financially we were bolstered by a generous legacy from an anonymous benefactor but by 31 March 2008 we had used up our reserves and ended the year with a deficit of £4,000. The ongoing challenge in these difficult financial times is finding the funds to maintain our ability to continue serving the interests of bereaved families facing an inquest.

We thank our funders whose generous donations provided the principal funding source for the organisation during the two years, their advice and practical support has also been invaluable.

We received funding from The AW60 Trust, Appletree Fund, The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Baring Foundation, BBC Radio 4 Appeal, The Big Lottery

Fund, The Bromley Trust, The City Parochial Foundation, The Durban Trust, The Hilden Charitable Fund, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, London Councils (formerly The Association of London Government), The Nationwide Foundation, The Network for Social Change, The Nuffield Foundation, Slaughter and May Charitable Trust and Unison.

We must also acknowledge the significant contributions made by our subscribers, individual donors and well-wishers during the years.

Our staff team has been ably supported by a number of volunteers during this period. Their donation of their time and skills has been invaluable to the service that we have been able to continue providing. Between them our volunteers donated a total of 240 days over the two years in helping us to continue supporting bereaved families, and for that we are grateful.



INQUEST
Working for truth, justice and accountability

Listen to Linton Kwesi Johnson's Radio 4 (92-95 FM, 198 LW) appeal for INQUEST on Sunday 3 February at 07.55 and 21.26 and on Thursday 7 February at 15.27 or read it on INQUEST's website

• Policy • Research • Campaigning • Advice • Support • Information •

Internationally-renowned poet Linton Kwesi Johnson recorded our second BBC Appeal which was broadcast on Radio 4 in February 2008 and raised almost £5,000 for INQUEST.

INQUEST ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST -
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

Income and Expenditure Summary

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2008	Total Funds 2007
	£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming Resources</i>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income				
Grants and donations	57,415	40,967	98,382	261,802
Investment income	-	4,157	4,157	7,358
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Grants and contracts	191,394	2,000	193,394	147,804
Sales of publications	-	1,710	1,710	1,576
Other income	-	1,000	1,000	302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	248,809	49,834	298,643	418,842
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Resources Expended</i>				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	1,484
Charitable activities	250,216	164,192	414,408	419,384
Governance costs	-	5,750	5,750	6,705
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	250,216	169,942	420,158	427,573
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year</i>	(1,407)	(120,108)	(121,515)	(8,731)
Total funds brought forward	8,471	116,068	124,539	133,270
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	7,064	(4,040)	3,024	124,539
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INQUEST ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	2008	2007
	£	£
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	<u>6,667</u>	<u>5,405</u>
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Debtors and Prepayments	5,351	529
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>32,375</u>	<u>186,865</u>
	37,726	187,394
<i>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</i>	<u>(41,369)</u>	<u>(68,260)</u>
<i>Net Current Assets</i>	<u>(3,643)</u>	<u>119,134</u>
<i>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</i>	<u><u>3,024</u></u>	<u><u>124,539</u></u>
<i>Reserves</i>		
Restricted Funds	7,064	8,471
Unrestricted Funds	<u>(4,040)</u>	<u>116,068</u>
	<u><u>3,024</u></u>	<u><u>124,539</u></u>

Trustees Statement

The financial information presented does not comprise the statutory financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the financial year ended 31 March 2008 approved on 28 January 2009, but represents extracts from them. These extracts cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the company as the complete Annual Report.

The statutory financial statements have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the auditors have reported on them; their report was unqualified.

The complete accounts, including auditors' report, can be obtained free of charge, on request with an SAE from Steve Roberts, INQUEST, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

On behalf of the Board, 28 January 2009

Auditors Statement

In our opinion this summarised financial statement is consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008.

Barcant Beardon LLP, 8 Blackstock Mews, London N4 2BT

"Exceptional – nothing I got told made me feel I needed a second opinion, as this has been the problem for me in my case, whenever I've needed a second opinion I've asked INQUEST."

"They are very understanding people; they speak to you on level terms and do everything they possibly can to help."

"I found a lot of information through INQUEST that I would not have found anywhere else."

"Staff at INQUEST have accrued an unparalleled level of knowledge and experience in the field of work and can draw on a network of contacts to assist service users."

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www.inquest.org.uk

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