INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1046650

Details

Other names	I C T
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03054853
Registered	1995-05-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Inquest 89-93 Fonthill Road London N4 3JH
Phone	02072631111
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Website	www.inquest.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY, IN PARTICULAR, RESEARCH INTO AND PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SUDDEN OR UNEXPLAINED DEATHS OR DEATHS WHICH ARE OR MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF A CORONER'S INQUEST. B) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AMONGST THE BEREAVED IN PARTICULAR BY PROVISION OF INFORMATION ADVICE COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT. C) TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER CHARITABLE OBJECTIVE.

Activities: INQUEST was founded in 1981 following a number of controversial deaths in police and prison custody. It is the only charitable organisation in England and Wales that provides an independent, free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the Coroner's Court and the civil courts.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,168,538	£1,178,136	£90,925	17
2024-03-31	£1,146,144	£1,253,629	£100,523	18
2023-03-31	£1,150,608	£1,118,335	£208,008	17
2022-03-31	£842,030	£993,710	£175,735	16
2021-03-31	£1,068,650	£838,246	£327,415	15

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Diane Sarah Newton	Chair	2018-12-15
Christine De Grasse		2023-12-18
DANIEL MACHOVER		2012-01-31
Douglas Stephen Cave		2023-05-23
Dr Patrick Williams		2021-11-10
GERALDINE MARY ISHERWOOD		
Marcia Patricia Rigg		2023-05-23
Marcia Patricia Rigg		2023-11-18
PETE WEATHERBY		2018-03-08
RUTH ELIZABETH DOBIE BUNDEY		
Rajiv Menon		2016-03-31
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute		2023-05-23
Steve Tombs		2014-07-01

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INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1046650

Accounts

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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OUR ORGANISATION

Established in 1981, INQUEST is the only charity providing expertise on state related deaths and their investigation to bereaved people, lawyers, advice and support agencies, the media and parliamentarians. Our specialist casework includes deaths in police and prison custody, immigration detention, mental health settings and deaths involving multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question, including the Hillsborough football disaster and Grenfell Tower fire. INQUEST's policy, parliamentary, campaigning and media work is grounded in the day-to-day experience of working with bereaved people. Employing an integrated model, we bring together casework support and family engagement, as well as a system-wide analysis of state related deaths and their investigation, which we use for our public facing advocacy.

Our work not only ensures the voices of bereaved families are heard, but that state related deaths are situated within their broader political and social context, whether that be concerns around structural racism and discrimination, mental health provision, prison overcrowding, over-policing of racialised communities, or the impact of poverty.

INQUEST has carried on supporting hundreds of bereaved families and advocating for their rights and for system changes in care and detention systems, operating in a very challenging context, not least the political context. We were horrified to witness unprecedented racist violence across the country in the summer of 2024, which also reminded us of the need for our essential work protecting fundamental rights and tackling the racism and discrimination underpinning a lot of our work. In a public statement in response to the violence, we said:

"We are appalled by the racist and Islamophobic violence we are seeing across the country. These are not isolated events - they are the predictable outcome of decades of racist and anti-migrant rhetoric by politicians and the media. We know that the government calling for more police powers, surveillance & imprisonment will disproportionately harm all racialised people. The bereaved families we work with know this only too well. Rather, the government must act on what the evidence has long been telling us: policing, prisons and immigration centres cause harm and death. They must eradicate racism and Islamophobia at its roots."

We do not take government funding to retain our independence and have been operating in a context where fundraising has become extremely challenging, with an increasing demand on a decreasing pool and trusts and foundations often closed for applications whilst reviewing their strategies. The year 2024 saw some of our large grants come to an end but also saw us securing new or continuation funding from, amongst others, the Oak Foundation, the John Ellerman Foundation, the Disrupt Foundation, and the Sony Social Justice Fund. Finally, we were delighted to reach our 40 Years of INQUEST fundraising appeal target of £40,000, and to also exceed our fundraising target of £22,800 at the 2024 Big give Christmas Challenge.

We are very grateful to our funders, who stand by us whilst we deliver this incredibly important but also challenging work towards social and racial justice.

Diane Newton formally stepped down as Chair of INQUEST in the spring of 2025 after three years in the role, handing over to Steve Tombs, professor of criminology, who was Diane's deputy since 2022. We are so grateful to Diane for her guidance and support over the last three years and are delighted that she will remain on our board.

As ever, we are also immensely grateful to our wonderful staff group, the families who inform our work, volunteers and trustees for their incredible work and their unwavering commitment.

The report below outlines key work undertaken over the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

CASEWORK

During the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, INQUEST worked on a total of **664** cases, **318** of which were newly opened during that period, the remainder having been opened beforehand and were still ongoing, reflecting the protracted nature of the post death investigation and inquest processes.

91 (14% of the total cases) were in police custody or following contact with the police; **163** in prison settings (25%); **226** (34%) in mental health settings; **6** (1%) were immigration-related cases; other cases include deaths in care homes, in supported accommodation, on probation, involving clinical negligence or disasters such as the Grenfell Tower fire.

155 (23%) of the total number of cases involved racially minoritised people: **20** (22%) police cases; **50** (31%) prison cases; **36** (16%) in mental health settings; **3** (50%) immigration cases; and **40** (22%) out of all other types of case.

Women accounted for **197** (30%) of all cases, and there were also **14** cases involving transgender, non-binary and gender-fluid people during the timeframe. Women made up **8** (9%) police cases; **13** (8%) prison cases; **104** (46%) in mental health settings; **1** (17%) immigration case; and **71** (40%) of all other types of case.

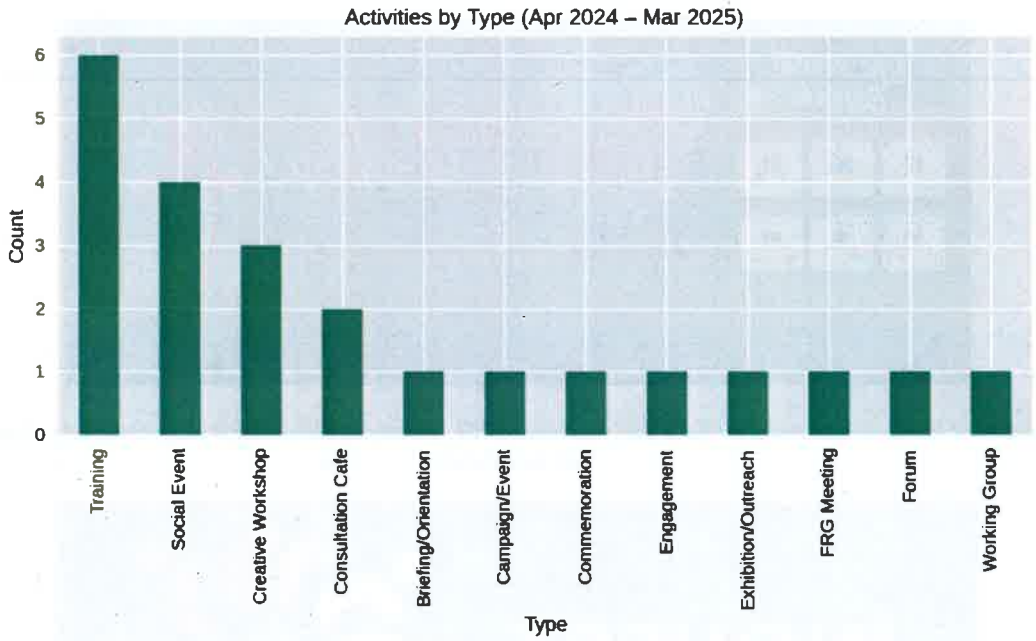
Due to funding and capacity issues, we changed the way we deliver casework in January 2025 in order to provide a more impactful service. We will work strategically on a smaller number of cases whilst creating resources and advice for other families, through online resources, ongoing workshops and training. Those families that would have had access to full casework support prior to the changes will now instead be referred directly to lawyers. They will also be directed to our online resources, FAQs/Factsheets, INQUEST Handbook, workshops, family events as well as Connection Cafes/closed INQUEST Families Facebook group.

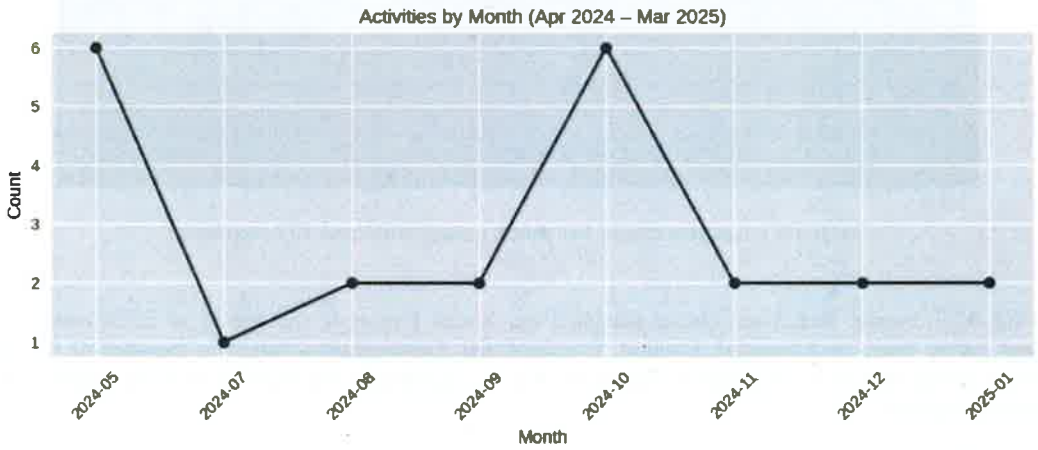
Informed by consultation with bereaved families the workshops are a mix of online and in-person sessions and provide practical support on topics, such as preparing for and navigating inquests, working with the media, engaging in policy and parliamentary work, health and wellbeing. Some will be worked on inhouse with families, others will be commissioned e.g. mindfulness.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Over the year, INQUEST continued facilitating online spaces for peer-to-peer support, providing additional support and information before, during and after the inquest. Notable examples include Connection Cafés (24 events), self-care, the Facebook Group (which is jointly run by the Family Reference Group) and the revitalised Family Forum (one in person event held in London and another in Liverpool).

These safe spaces and networks of support and solidarity with others going through similar experiences have been described to staff as a "lifeline" because deaths in state care are unlike any other, often involving stigma, shame, legal delays and victim-blaming. Families can be left feeling isolated from friends, colleagues, and other family members.

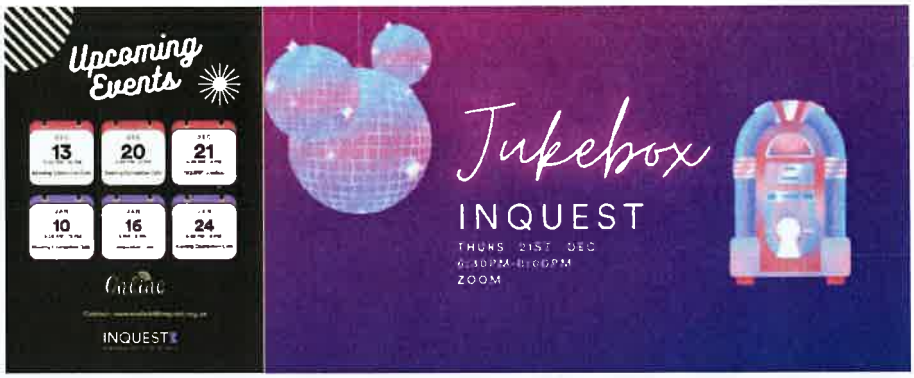




"There is so much stigma about people who die in prison. People on the outside think "well they deserve to be there, or it's their own fault." To be able to go on the screen at the INQUEST events and connection cafe and be in company of other people who get how you feel, your anxieties, your shame. It makes me feel less ashamed about where and how [my son] died. As much as the Family Engagement Coordinator sort of runs the meetings, she lets people just talk, and when they do they talk from the heart. You speak and you don't feel judged." Family member

"Big thanks to [the Family Engagement Coordinator] for the way she runs these and thanks to all the families who share experiences that reduce isolation but also significantly help us to understand the complex inquest process and participate better." Family member

"I love Connection Café; it has been a huge support and gave me strength to face the inquest." Family member.



Schedule of family events and flyer for Family Jukebox 2024, where families bring a song reminding them of their loved ones



INQUEST families closed Facebook group, with now 322 members.

The INQUEST Family Reference Group launched our Social Events in the spring of 2025 with a Coffee Morning taking place in Liverpool, London, Horsham and Birmingham – where a member of the Family Reference Group hosted in each venue. The event was an opportunity for families to build connections and community together.

As part of developing the new way of supporting families we created a survey to consult our families on the services they felt they needed and would like to see. 112 families responded and the consultation led to the following plan of activities:

- ***Workshops & Events: A mix of online and in-person sessions providing practical support on navigating inquests, creating space for emotional wellbeing, and connecting with others facing similar loss. Some will be worked on inhouse with families, others will be commissioned e.g. Mindfulness.***

- ***Digital Resource Development: Co-developing creative, accessible materials—including factsheets, explainers, and toolkits—with families. These resources respond directly to feedback calling for shorter, clearer, more manageable formats that acknowledge the cognitive challenges of grief and trauma, and the overwhelm attached to navigating an inquest for the first time.***

- ***Inclusion: Accessibility measures (including BSL, captioning, translation, and data bundles) will ensure the programme is inclusive, responsive, and able to demonstrate impact effectively.***

- ***Digital Infrastructure & Delivery Support: Investment in secure platforms and digital tools will enable high-quality delivery, while underpinning the sustainability of these resources.***

What families say about us

Our 2024 survey of 103 families we work with provided the following feedback:
86% of survey respondents in 2023/2024 assessed the casework service received as "Very good" or "good".
85% said they felt less isolated after accessing the INQUEST casework survey.
68% said they had fostered a sense of community and support with other families.
89% said casework support had helped equip them to go through the inquest and investigation process.
81% of 103 said accessing services provided by INQUEST had made me feel better able to cope and become more resilient.

"Thank you so much for all the support you've provided me throughout this process. You've been an absolute gem; your compassion and dedication have meant a lot to me. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you." Bereaved family member to their Caseworker.

"Throughout this entire process, you and our lawyer have been instrumental in guiding and getting us to court. Your dedication and effort have been invaluable. Regardless of the jury's verdict, we know that you have done everything in your power for us, and for that, we are truly grateful. Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do. I speak for my entire family when I say this." Bereaved family to their Caseworker.

"I cannot fully express the magnitude of the positive impact your support has had on our ability as a family to shine a light on what happened. The coroner had wanted us to have a cursory inquest conducted remotely without the fullness of scope we eventually had. It has been clear throughout this process that the coroner's office is not interested in discovering the truth for families but for carrying out damage limitation operations for the State and for organisations they outsource responsibilities for care to. Thank you to you and Inquest for being there for us when no one else was... Thank you once again for the extraordinary support you have provided for the past 5 years despite the immense pressures on your service." Bereaved family to caseworker

"I have to say you have given us confidence that someone is standing with us through this process that understands what we are going through and gives us the confidence to help us navigate the very long process ahead." Bereaved family to caseworker

"I'd like to tell you now that INQUEST was a life saver and game changer for us, especially in the early days. Your support and good advice were so welcome and appreciated and I send a huge thank you to you all. It was so good not to feel so alone." Bereaved family to their caseworker.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – POLICING

INQUEST has long been campaigning alongside families for alternatives to policing, not least for people in crisis. Last year, we contributed to Liberty's Holding Our Own: A guide to non-policing solutions to serious youth violence alongside other incredible organisations fighting for change. We were delighted that this report won the Amplifying Voices award at the Sheila McKechnie Foundation National Campaigner Awards 2024.

In 2023, our report 'I can't breathe': race, death, and British policing found that Black people are seven times more likely to die than White people following the use of restraint by police. The report was widely disseminated to NGO's, oversight and monitoring groups, the United Nations and others and remains a well-used report accessed on our website. Raekha Prasad, the report's author, wrote about the people behind these statistics and their families' long waits for justice in the Guardian.

Institutional racism in policing is also endemic in Scotland. Sheku Bayoh, a 31-year-old Black man, died in 2015 following restraint by Scottish police officers. Our Director Deborah Coles has supported the family and their lawyer since his death, sharing INQUEST's expertise and resources. In June 2024, she was called to give evidence as an expert witness to the public inquiry into his death. She also submitted two detailed witness statements. She stated that *"the lethal pattern of disproportionality continues', as 'no death of a Black person following police custody or contact has led to officers being effectively disciplined for racism or held to account."* Campaigner, and INQUEST Family reference Group member and trustee Marcia also gave evidence about her experiences following the restraint death of her brother Sean Rigg.

In October 2024, Martyn Blake, a Metropolitan Police firearms officer was acquitted of the murder of Chris Kaba, an unarmed 24-year-old Black man, fatally shot in the head on 5 September 2022. INQUEST had worked with the family and their legal team following the death. No on-duty police officer has ever been found guilty of murder since 1990. Speaking after the verdict, Chris' family said: *"Today, we are devastated. No family should endure the unimaginable grief we have faced. Chris was stolen from us, and this decision shows his life - and many others like him - does not matter to the system. Our son deserved better."* Following the trial, INQUEST saw familiar state tactics demonising the dead to deflect from the killing of an unarmed Black man whose identity the police did not know. Instead of focusing on ending police killings, the Police Federation called on the government to make it harder to investigate and prosecute officers. Warning about the dangers of this, our Director Deborah Coles, said to the Guardian: *"The cynical attempts to protect the police from the rule of law must be rigorously resisted, as this is in effect giving them immunity."* Home Secretary Yvette Cooper subsequently announced that in future, armed officers charged after shooting will now likely remain anonymous unless they are convicted. Chris's death is not an isolated incident. This past year saw the highest number of deaths in and following police custody in 17 years according to the latest annual statistics published by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Read our analysis of these figures. We know that real justice and accountability is when the deaths and harms of policing stop. To do this, our Director Deborah Coles once again renewed calls to *"look beyond policing and redirect resources into community, health, welfare and specialist drug and alcohol services."*

INQUEST has also worked on the case of 'W80', the firearms officer who shot Jermine Baker and who sought to challenge the decision of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to bring gross misconduct proceedings against him. W80 had unsuccessfully fought in the Supreme Court for his use of force that day to be assessed using the higher criminal law test, rather than the civil law test. INQUEST and StopWatch intervened in the case providing detailed submissions, leading to the Supreme Court dismissing W80's appeal. Our partnership with StopWatch continued, following the launch by the Government of the Rapid Review into Police Accountability. The review was announced in October 2024 following the acquittal of Metropolitan Police firearms officer, Martyn Blake, of the murder of Chris Kaba. INQUEST worked with ILG, PALG Centre for Women's Justice, United Friends and Families Campaign and StopWatch to jointly submit a response to the review into whether there's a case for reversing Supreme Court judgements into W80 and Maughan. We met with Godwin and Fulford, who lead on the review, in December to outline our views on the review and wrote an open letter to the Home Secretary highlighting the concerns of bereaved families and that the changes under consideration would undermine further public trust and allow police officers to evade accountability.https://www.inquest.org.uk/police-accountability-open-letter

Following our collaboration on Achieving Racial Justice at Inquests: A Practitioner's Guide (2024), we have significantly strengthened our relationship with JUSTICE whom we have worked with on crime and policing bill to highlight concerns regarding accountability and anonymity for the police.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – PRISONS

The crisis in the prison system continued with serious implications for the safety of prisoners as we see in our casework and the human stories behind the statistics. Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice revealed a record high rate of self-harm in prisons. Responding to these appalling statistics, our director Deborah Coles said that Government plans to build 14,000 more prisons *"does little to address why people end up in prison in the first place or how we can prevent further deaths."* She was also part of this ITV documentary on the state of our prisons talking about how this high death toll is a national scandal.

We joined over 70 campaigners calling on the new Government to reform the Imprisonment for Public Protection Sentence, which was abolished in 2012. The harm caused by IPP sentences was yet again evidenced in the recent inquest into Shaine Tester's death. In November 2022, Shaine died a self-inflicted death in HMP Garmtree. As an IPP prisoner, he felt 'forgotten by the system' and punished for his mental ill health.

We submitted a response to the MOJ's Sentencing Review to outline the harm of short sentences as well as custodial sentences for women, neurodiverse people and people with mental ill health.

The Justice Committee launched an inquiry into drugs in prison. The policy team worked alongside our caseworkers to gather information from recent cases of deaths in prison where drugs were an issue to analyse the key issues arising from the inquests and investigations into those deaths. We also teamed up with the organisation RELEASE and a Professor of Criminology and Social Policy at Manchester Metropolitan University to bring together a comprehensive evidence submission for the Committee, which was cited in the Committee's final inquiry report. The Welsh Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into prisons in Wales, which we submitted evidence to building on our drugs in prison submission and cases in HMP Parc.

In Scotland, the family of Allan Marshall, who died following restraint by 17 officers in HMP Edinburgh sued the Scottish Prison service over his death. Our Director Deborah Coles spoke to the Guardian about how the shameful way that this death was investigated should send shock waves through the Scottish parliament, police, and prison service.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – MENTAL HEALTH

On 9 September 2024, a statutory public inquiry opened into the deaths of over 2,000 people in the care of Essex mental health services. It was converted to a statutory inquiry as a result of the lack of candour and disclosure of information from those working at the NHS Trust. This is the first public inquiry into mental health services that has ever been held in England and established by a Minister as a direct result of the campaigns of families. Matthew Leahy, 20, died in 2012 days after being admitted for inpatient care in Essex. His mother Melanie has been fighting for a public inquiry alongside other bereaved families ever since. Speaking at the inquiry, she said she hopes it will "*set an example to the rest of the mental health providers across our nation to get their establishments up to standard or I fear many, many families will suffer the same losses*".

As a result of our unique expertise on deaths in mental health services and their investigation, INQUEST has for the first time been given core participant status in a public inquiry. You can read our opening statement to the Inquiry here. We issued press statements at the beginning of the Inquiry. https://www.inquest.org.uk/statutory-inquiry-essex-opens INQUEST is working with a legal team to provide the Inquiry with detailed witness statements providing a comprehensive overview of the issues arising from our work and the way deaths are investigated. The Inquiry will continue through 2026.

Alongside our family member Trustee, Doug Cave, INQUEST attended the Suicide & Co conference where our Family Engagement Coordinator spoke. It was great to get together with other organisations and campaigners and join up our work to support bereaved people and prevent self-inflicted deaths.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – NATIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM (NOM)

We have carried on our work on our NOM campaign. In September 2024, we held a fringe meeting at Labour Party Conference to remind the government that they must do more to put an end to preventable deaths. Together with Natasha Elcock from Grenfell United, Richard Caseby whose son Matthew died in a Priory run mental health setting, Emma Jones from Leigh Day and Joe Powell MP, we discussed the need for a National Oversight Mechanism to ensure life-saving recommendations made after state-related deaths lead to meaningful change.
The then new Attorney General Richard Hermer attended the meeting and committed to listen and consult with families and INQUEST. The event was sponsored by Leigh Day who chaired the event.
We also came together with campaigners from Covid Families for Justice, Hillsborough Law Now, Grenfell United, Hacked Off and Truth About Zane to discuss why Hillsborough Law and our No More Deaths campaign are interlinked and crucial to prevent further harm and injustice.

As part of our campaign, we also spoke to The Guardian informing a powerful editorial on the urgent need for action on coroners' prevention of future death reports and they referenced INQUEST's call for the NOM. We worked with the Health Service Safety Investigations body to provide information on the repeated issues arising from deaths of people in mental health settings, and in their report on this matter they also supported the need for an oversight mechanism. INQUEST's work on the NOM was cited extensively in a paper published in the Harvard Law Journal written by a professor and former UN Special Rapporteur.

We have forged new relationships with prestigious legal and policy organisations as part of NOM campaign. This has included working with Institute for Government and our Director being a key presenter and respondent on a roundtable on public inquiries which engaged with former public inquiry chair, lawyers, and academics.
We were pleased to see that our campaign for a National Oversight Mechanism was mentioned in both House of Lords and House of Commons debates on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. A National Oversight Mechanism is crucial to ensure that life-saving recommendations made after disasters such as the Grenfell Tower Fire are followed up, reported on and implemented. We also worked with Carla Denyer MP on a Private Members Bill, the State Related Deaths (National Oversight Mechanism) Bill and on a related early day motion.
We also spoke about our campaign, alongside Hillsborough Law Now, at the inspiring Dan Kay Foundation event at Liverpool Hope University's Festival of Futures. The Dan Kay Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Liverpool journalist and Hillsborough campaigner Dan Kay which aims to tackle stigma around mental illness.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – HILLSBOROUGH LAW

2024 saw the Government committing to enact Hillsborough Law in the King's Speech. This was a huge step forward in providing a legacy for the 97 people unlawfully killed during the Hillsborough Football Disaster. The legislation will introduce a legal duty of candour so that state authorities have to tell the truth in investigations and ensure that bereaved families and victims receive equal legal funding from the start. Speaking to BBC News, our Director Deborah Coles said: "*This is the result of the incredible power of families standing together to demand justice accountability and change. A massive thank you to you all and we hold in our thoughts those who have been killed or harmed by the state.*"
In July 2024, Deborah Coles spoke at the parliamentary event for the of the **Hillsborough Law Now campaign launch** and INQUEST worked with the Hillsborough Law Now campaign and the organisation JUSTICE to advocate for a Hillsborough Law and a statutory duty of candour during debates on the Victims and Prisoners Bill (now Act).

INQUEST, with the support of the campaign group Hillsborough Law Now organised a Family Listening Day and brought together 23 family members and victims with direct experience of inquests and inquiries into deaths and harm caused by public or corporate bodies. These included circumstances involving the police, NHS trusts, the Post Office and the military, as well as victims and survivors of mass fatalities such as the Hillsborough stadium football disaster (after which the Bill is named) and the Grenfell Tower fire. It also included the sister of Ruth Perry, the headteacher who died by suicide following an Ofsted inspection. The event was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and held on 3 February 2025 in central London. It involved facilitated conversations exploring participants' experiences of state violence, neglect, secrecy, cover-ups and their legal

battles for truth, justice and accountability. Those present were *'unwilling experts by experience'*, but experts nonetheless, and brought unique and insightful evidence as to what a 'good' Hillsborough Law would look like to them. Attendees spoke with openness, reflection and from the heart, helping the listeners in attendance understand what a Hillsborough Law could do to ensure inquests, investigations and inquiries better served them as bereaved people and victims of injustice, but also the public more broadly in the hope of preventing future deaths and harms. The Secretary of State for Justice, Cabinet Office minister, civil servants and the mayors of Liverpool and Manchester were in attendance to hear the families' experiences. Bereaved families and survivors have issued a clear warning to Government that Hillsborough Law must be "*all or nothing*".



Hillsborough Law Family Listening Day, February 2025

Following the Family Listening Day we published our report *"All or Nothing" A report on the Hillsborough Law Family Listening Day* on 8th April 2025.

GRENFELL

INQUEST has continued to support bereaved families and campaign groups from the Grenfell community, also attending the annual memorial silent walk. We continued to work closely with Grenfell United on their campaign aims as well as work around the Grenfell inquiry recommendations, and kept liaising with Justice4Grenfell, Grenfell Next of Kin, Ethio-Eritrea group of families. We also met with the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission to discuss how we can support their work and work together in future.

On 4th September 2024, we attended the Grenfell Tower Inquiry venue for the panel's publication of the Grenfell Inquiry phase 2 report alongside families. We were invited to attend a roundtable discussion organised by young people from the Grenfell community to discuss the report and next steps for achieving justice with members of the community. We spoke about the report and informed community members about the National Oversight Mechanism and how they can be involved in the campaign, alongside housing campaigner, Kwajo Tweneboa and journalist Pete Apps.

The report made a recommendation to the Government *"that it be made a legal requirement for the government to maintain a publicly accessible record of recommendations made by select committees, coroners and public inquiries together with a description of the steps taken in response. If the government decides not to accept a recommendation, it should record its reasons for doing so. Scrutiny of its actions should be a matter for Parliament, to which it should be required to report annually"* further evidencing the need for a National Oversight Mechanism.

Following the publication of the report our director took part in a podcast with Channel 4 News hosted by Krishnan Guru- Murphy, How to stop scandals like Grenfell from happening again.

INQUEST's submission on recommendations, where we called for a National Oversight Mechanism, has now been published on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry website: INQUEST's Recommendations Submission.

SCOTLAND WORK

Aside from the work on the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry referenced above, we have undertaken other work in Scotland:
Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of William Lindsay and Katie Allan
Deborah also went to Scotland both during and at the culmination of the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of William Linday and Katie Allan whose families and lawyer she has worked with since their deaths 7 years ago. The Inquiry resulted in a 419-page report identifying a 'catalogue of failures' and demonstrating that their deaths could have been avoided. At an emotionally charged press conference attended by Deborah, the families welcomed the damning report by Sheriff Simon Collins KC and demanded a complete overhaul of Scotland's fatal accident inquiry (FAI) system to make its recommendations legally binding. The Inquiry's findings prompted the families' and INQUEST to call on the UK government to end prisons' crown immunity from prosecution. Deborah is taking part in discussions with the Allan family, lawyer and their MP about that removal of immunity, an issue impacting on families across the UK – she contributed to a briefing for a 10 min rule bill and did interviews on this with family and MP on the day the bill being discussed in parliament.

Other Scotland work

Deborah has undertaken high-level influencing and coalition building and established relationships with multiple stakeholders working on deaths in custody in Scotland including bereaved families, lawyers, academics, NGOs, inspection, oversight and investigation bodies, and human rights organisations. Deborah is working with some families bereaved after a death in custody and has been monitoring the legal processes that have followed, and this has helped identify some of the systemic problems with the investigation processes and the lack of support available for bereaved people. Our expertise on deaths in custody and detention, and the treatment of bereaved people, is being sought by a variety of organisations and specialist bodies as well as by bereaved families themselves.

Deborah and INQUEST intend to undertake further influencing work as the Scottish Government have announced they will adopt our proposal for a National Oversight Mechanism – there will be a need to set up follow up meetings with the Government. Government is also setting up a review of the Fatal Accident Inquiry process (the Scottish equivalent of an inquest). INQUEST will apply its extensive understanding of and experience advising on the Article 2 framework in England and Wales to the Scottish context in our engagement and analysis. Across our work with bereaved families, INQUEST has shown a commitment to promoting national and international human rights.

UNJUST DEATHS- LEGACY AND MOMORIALISATION

Unjust Deaths is a project by INQUEST, helping communities bereaved by state violence to memorialise the people who have died and encouraging the public to meaningfully engage with this difficult and ongoing history. From podcasts to a memorial project, INQUEST was able to develop its creative campaigns as part of its legacy project.



Memorialisation Working Group

We launched a 12-month consultation to collectively think about, plan and begin to deliver, memorial strategies. Our 14 members are a combination of bereaved people, socially engaged artists, campaigners, academics, heritage specialists, journalists and gardeners. The group includes representatives from Glasgow, Manchester, Essex, Newport, Devon, London and Leeds.

The INQUEST Archive

You can now access a catalogue of the INQUEST archive here documenting state violence, death and resistance in the UK since 1981. The archive explores over 40 years of fighting for justice through sound, image and print.

Podcast Series 2- Unlawful Killing

Our specialist podcast series, focusing on memorialisation, has been a great success – allowing us to invite more guests for interview and explore questions of memory, history and change from different voices. We have had wonderful feedback from participants and listeners. Sandra Ruiz, Grenfell Memorial Commissioner, who was interviewed for episode 2 said: '*Thank you so much for inviting me to record the podcast and thank you to the whole team for making it such a great experience and helping me relax into it. It is such an important project and so brilliantly framed.*' Thanks to additional support from Goldsmiths University and Bishopsgate Institute we were able to put on a podcast and digital archive launch celebration on 25 March. This felt like a solidification of INQUEST's investment in creative, collaborative and community focused heritage – we had over 100 people in the room, a mix of bereaved families, people involved in the organisation from the 1980s to now, journalists, artists and lawyers. The event featured a volunteer-curated display of archive material, our new digital archive website on display, postcards we created to spotlight the archive featuring QR codes, family created quilt banners (one being the outcome of this current project), a short film documenting the creation of the banner during this project, a podcast episode teaser and speeches. It was a joyous evening despite the reason all this history exists.

Episode 1 – Legacy (part 1): Creating lasting change in memory of Cherry Groce.
Episode 2 – Legacy (part 2): Sandra Ruiz on remembering Grenfell and those who died
Episode 3 – Artistic and the fight for change
Episode 4 – Artistic Voices (part 2): Echoes from the archive: remembering the artists silenced by the state
Episode 5 – Protest Banners (part 1): Azelle Rodney's mother speaks about a mother's love, art Podcast series has been recorded, edited and released. It features six episodes all on the theme of legacy, memorial and creative responses to archives.
Episode 6 – Protest Banners (part 2): Beyond the inquest: stitching to build memory and community



Launch of INQUEST archive, 25 March 2025, Bishopsgate Institute

SoulsINQUEST

Following the huge success of the London exhibition, a second SoulsINQUEST exhibition was held in Platform Arts CentreGlasgow in May 2024. The launch saw attendance of a broad group of policymakers and organisations, and bereaved families, including the Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland, the National Preventative Mechanism, the Human Rights Commission, NGOs, and theatre and arts groups. This enabled engagement and discussion on the broader issues surrounding deaths in custody to new and diverse audiences. It also strengthened ongoing relationships with key stakeholders whilst supporting our wider strategic aims in Scotland where we aim to further embed our work.
Both exhibitions attracted significant media interest, including in the Guardian, The Independent, and the Herald Scotland, who recommended the exhibition as one of its 10 '*must sees*'.

Commemorative Banners
Following the roaring success of our first family commemorative banner, we got a new group of families together and produced a beautiful second banner (see both banners below) which was launched at the UFFC silent march in Westminster on 26th October 2024. Simultaneously in Scotland, families bereaved by state violence took their own new banner out in Edinburgh outside Bute House, the formal residence of the First Minister of Scotland.
You can find her a preview of our 'Stitched Together' film showing bereaved families coming together to create a memorial banner for their loved ones.



The Scottish banner and the two banners made in England

INQUEST was honoured to have been presented with the 'Most Impactful Organisation Award 2024' from the Ronaldo Thierry Johnson Foundation. Ron was unlawfully killed in a crash following a police chase in Manchester in March 2021. His family continue to campaign to end police pursuits and support other bereaved families. Follow their campaign. INQUEST attended an event in Manchester on 28 September 2024 organised by the Foundation celebrating what would have been Ron Johnson's 21st birthday.

INQUEST in the media

- Justice review calls for end to child imprisonment in England, The Guardian
- Jodie Anderson spoke to BBC news about the need to meaningfully support people leaving prison as the Government's early release scheme begins, and the inherent harms of prison.
- Hundreds of suicides at 'traumatising' NHS mental health hospitals, The Times
- Trans teenager's parents call for better emotional support for families, ITV
- Family of Allan Marshall to sue prison service in Scotland over 2015 death in custody, The Guardian
- NHS sends vulnerable patients to private hospital accused of abuse, The Independent
- 'Mum was ill, not bad': family call for reform of England's justice system after prison suicide, The Guardian
- Number of deaths linked to police custody 'extremely concerning', The Independent
- The Guardian view on the coroner's role: if deaths can be prevented, they should be
- 'Hillsborough Law' on the table by anniversary - PM, BBC

- Landmark inquiry launched into deaths of mental health patients in Essex, Channel 4
- Labour Government Promises Bereaved Covid Families: 'Failures of State' During Pandemic Will Not be Repeated, Byline Times
- 'No immediate response' to inmate's self-harm plan, BBC
- Jason Lee McQuoid 'failed' by prison's mental health team, Norwich Guardian
- Chris Kaba shot man and was alleged core member of gang, The Guardian
- Police push to make it harder to prosecute officers after Chris Kaba shooting, The Guardian
- Chris Kaba: Officers on trial after shooting suspects to have anonymity, home secretary says, ITV
- Met officers cleared of ignoring Kevin Clarke's 'I can't breathe', BBC.
- Deaths at young offenders' institution in Scotland could have been avoided, The Guardian.
- 'Liam's death could have so easily been avoided': Family of man who drowned in River Thames 'broken', My London
- Ruth Perry: How I would fix our unjust inquest system, The Times
- Coroners criticise Wandsworth prison in failings over inmates' deaths. The Times
- Multiple failures led to death of teenager at mental health hospital, Channel 4
- Lengthy stay in A&E contributed to death – coroner, BBC
- Climate Prisoners Are Exposing the Dire State of Prison Healthcare, Novara Media
- Family of man who died in HMP Pentonville say 'nobody should be treated that way'
- Grenfell firms facing possible bans over 'mercenary behaviour' named, ITV London (including a live interview with Aniesha Obuobie), ITV
- Four in ten who took their lives in prison were denied adequate healthcare, The Independent
- Jailed, Failed, Forgotten, Dani Garavelli on suicides in state custody, London Review of Books
- Family's frustration with police for not stopping drowning of their son in Thames, ITV London
- Campaigners express deep concern over police accountability review, The Independent
- Family of Black man tasered by cops call for fearless investigation into his death, The Mirror
- Justice review calls for end to child imprisonment in England, The Guardian
- Jodie Anderson spoke to BBC news about the need to meaningfully support people leaving prison as the Govt's early release scheme begins, and the inherent harms of prison.
- Hundreds of suicides at 'traumatising' NHS mental health hospitals, The Times
- Trans teenager's parents call for better emotional support for families, ITV
- Family of Allan Marshall to sue prison service in Scotland over 2015 death in custody, The Guardian
- We need prevention, learning and long-term structural change to achieve justice for... - LBC, LBC written by Deborah Coles, our director, and Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator
- DC BBC News -Grenfell.mov – Deborah Coles BBC News interview
- BBC 5 Live, Deborah Coles Interview on Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 report from 1:10:07
- Channel 4 Political Fourcast Podcast, "How to stop scandals like Grenfell from happening again", Deborah Coles on the panel.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number:	1046650
Company registration number:	03054853
Registered and principal office:	Unit T3 89-93 Fonthill Road London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees
The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Stephen Tombs (Chair)
Daniel Machover
Geraldine Isherwood
Ruth Bundey
Joe Sim (resigned 15 November 2025)
Diane Newton
Rajiv Menon
Pete Weatherby
Patrick Williams
Douglas Stephen Cave
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute
Marcia Patricia Rigg- Samuel
Christine De Grasse

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2024 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary:	Arnaud Vervoitte
Chief Executive Officer:	Deborah Coles
Statutory Auditors:	Barcant Beardon Limited Chartered Accountants 8 Blackstock Mews Islington London N4 2BT
Banker:	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB

Staff

At 31st March 2025, the total staff number was 16:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework (resigned 14 March 2025)
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework
Jordan Ferdinand-Seargeant, Caseworker
Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer (resigned 7 June 2024)
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Luana D'Arco Yakubu, Casework Assistant
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer
Rosanna Ellul, Senior Policy & Parliamentary Officer
Mira Peliti - Operations & Development Officer (resigned 15 August 2024)
Naomi Oppenheim – Heritage Project Coordinator
Leila Hagmann – Media and Communication Assistant
Catherine Rosina – PA
Alfie Neill - Heritage Project Assistant (appointed 14 January 2025)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources,

including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

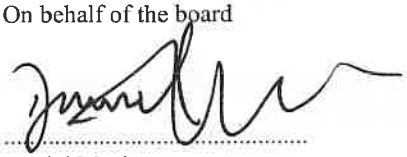
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Daniel Machover
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 15/12/2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

22nd December 2025

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	582,319	531,277	1,113,596	1,078,303
Charitable activities	4	-	35,818	35,818	42,604
Other trading activities	5	-	11,025	11,025	19,115
Investments	6	-	8,099	8,099	6,122
Total income and endowments		582,319	586,219	1,168,538	1,146,144
Expenditure on:					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	7	-	90,715	90,715	89,861
Charitable activities	8	582,319	505,102	1,087,421	1,163,768
Total expenditure		582,319	595,817	1,178,136	1,253,629
Net income/(expenditure)		-	(9,598)	(9,598)	(107,485)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		-	(9,598)	(9,598)	(107,485)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	100,523	100,523	208,008
Total funds carried forward		-	90,925	90,925	100,523

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	3,967	10,286
Current assets			
Debtors	16	23,664	111,436
Cash at bank and in hand		514,785	311,655
		538,449	423,091
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(451,491)	(332,854)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		86,958	90,237
Net assets		90,925	100,523
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	19	90,925	100,523
Total charity funds		90,925	100,523

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Geraldine Isherwood
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19.12.25

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.
Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	195,031	(133,544)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest income		8,099	6,122
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(4,064)
Net cash used in investing activities		8,099	2,058
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		203,130	(131,486)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		311,655	443,141
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		514,785	311,655
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in bank and in hand		514,785	311,655
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22.1	514,785	311,655

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.0 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Gifts	210,618	173,315
Gift Aid tax reclaims	16,453	11,000
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	30,000	22,000
Allen and Overy (Unrestricted)	-	5,000
The Blue Moon Trust (Unrestricted)	10,000	10,000
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	25,000	25,000
Disrupt Foundation	22,555	-
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	60,500	55,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	95,050	114,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	102,316	97,051
Grants from other sources (Restricted and Unrestricted)	510,214	529,927
Memberships	30,890	36,010
	1,113,596	1,078,303

3.1 Income from donations and legacies was £1,113,596 (2024 - £1,078,303) of which £582,319 (2024 - £610,478) was attributable to restricted and £531,277 (2024 - £467,825) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4.0 *Income from Charitable Activities*	2025 £	2024 £
Income from consulting and training services	31,992	37,970
Income from publications	3,826	4,634
Income from grants	-	-
	35,818	42,604

4.1 Income from charitable activities was £35,818 (2024 - £42,604) of which £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £35,818 (2024 - £42,604) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5.0 *Income from Other Trading Activities*	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	11,025	19,115

6.0 *Income from Investments*	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest – bank	8,099	6,122

7.0 *Expenditure on Raising Funds*	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Staff costs	88,418	82,737
Other fundraising costs	2,297	7,124
	90,715	89,861

8.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

8.1 Charitable Activities 2025

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	394,853	-	394,853
Casework and other family support	525,935	136,556	662,491
Publications	30,077	-	30,077
	950,865	136,556	1,087,421

Charitable Activities 2024

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	422,068	-	422,068
Casework and other family support	569,083	137,778	706,861
Publications	34,839	-	34,839
	1,025,990	137,778	1,163,768

8.2 Of the £1,087,421 expenditures in 2025 (2024 - £1,163,768), £582,319 (2024 - £620,878) was attributable to restricted funds and £505,102 (2024 - £542,890) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support	Governance costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Premises	66,311	-	66,311	67,029
Office running	1,930	-	1,930	5,262
Information technology	30,203	-	30,203	22,438
Legal and professional	12,361	-	12,361	16,597
Bookkeeping	3,000	-	3,000	4,349
Depreciation	6,319	-	6,319	6,820
Audit/Independent examination	-	16,340	16,340	14,900
Trustees' expenses	-	92	92	383
	120,124	16,432	136,556	137,778

10.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	16,340	14,900
Depreciation	6,319	6,820
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	52,800	52,800

11.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2024 – none). Travel costs amounting to £92 (2024 - £250) were reimbursed to 1 (2024 – one) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £nil (2024 - £49). No (2024 – No) trustee(s) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2024 - £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2024 – Nil).

12.0 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	735,386	764,821
Social security costs	71,532	74,551
Pensions	58,593	61,402
	865,511	900,774

12.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	–
	3	2

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £19,214 (2024 - £12,351).

12.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £259,387 (2024 - £227,546). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Casework.

13.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 16.83 staff (2024: 18.42 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Direct charitable work	16.83	18.42

14.0 Taxation

Inquest Charitable Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	49,167
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	49,167
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2024	38,881
Charge for the year	6,319
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	45,200
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2025	3,967
At 1 April 2024	10,286

16.0 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	600	13,685
Grants receivables and accrued income	11,499	80,970
Prepayments	11,565	16,781
	23,664	111,436

17.0 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	20,485	12,249
Taxation and social security	27,908	20,009
Accruals	53,554	53,586
Other creditors	98,324	63,691
Deferred income (see note 18)	251,220	183,319
	451,491	332,854

17.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £21,602 (2024 - £8,401).

18.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total £
Balance as at 1 April 2024	183,319
Amount released in the year	(183,319)
Amount deferred in the year	251,220
Balance as at 31 March 2025	251,220

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2025 £
General funds	100,523	586,219	(595,817)	-	90,925

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
General funds	197,608	535,666	(632,751)	-	100,523

Name of unrestricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
General funds	The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

19.1 ***Restricted Funds – Current year***

	Balance 1 Apr 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2025 £
Baring Foundation	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Blue Tread Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Garden Court Chambers	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	59,500	(59,500)	-	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	83,621	(83,621)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	104,749	(104,749)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	102,316	(102,316)	-	-
United Nations	-	19,499	(19,499)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
AB Charitable Trust	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	-	37,634	(37,634)	-	-
	-	582,319	(582,319)	-	-

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
Baring Foundation	-	15,833	(15,833)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	2,400	8,833	(11,233)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	151,061	(151,061)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	60,670	(60,670)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	58,500	(58,500)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	8,000	99,949	(107,949)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	97,051	(97,051)	-	-
United Nations	-	4,644	(4,644)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	10,400	610,478	(620,878)	-	-

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
Baring Foundation	Change work around addressing structural racism
Blue Tread Foundation	Policy, Women's briefing
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garden Court	Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
United Nations	Casework
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Garfield Weston Foundation	Provision of casework
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Legacy project associated with INQUEST's 40th anniversary

Legal Education Foundation	Provision of casework and capacity building in the legal sector
AB Charitable Trust	Additional Support in response to 2024 summer racist violence

20.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,967	3,967
Cash at bank and in hand	-	514,785	514,785
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(427,827)	(427,827)
	-	90,925	90,925

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	10,286	10,286
Cash at bank and in hand	-	311,655	311,655
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(221,418)	(221,418)
	-	100,523	100,523

21.0 Operating Leases - Lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than one year	8,800	52,800
Later than one and not later than five years	-	8,800
More than five years	-	-
	8,800	61,600

22.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income for the year	(9,598)	(107,485)
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(8,099)	(6,122)
Depreciation	6,319	6,820
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	87,772	(49,229)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	118,637	22,472
	195,031	(133,544)

22.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 31 March 2024	Cash-flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	311,655	203,130	514,785

23.0 Related Party Transactions

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £8,985 (2024 - £8,575).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 11, donations and other income totalling £7,235 (2024 - £240) were receivable from trustees during the year.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1046650

Accounts

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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About INQUEST

INQUEST is the only charity providing expertise on state related deaths and their investigation to bereaved people, lawyers, advice and support agencies, the media and parliamentarians. Our specialist casework includes deaths in police and prison custody, immigration detention, mental health settings and deaths involving multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question. This includes work around the Hillsborough football disaster and the Grenfell Tower fire.

INQUEST's policy, parliamentary, campaigning and media work is grounded in the day-to-day experience of working with bereaved people. Employing an integrated model, this brings together casework support, family participation, identification of thematic trends, statistics and analysis that feeds into the organisation's work on campaigning, information sharing and policy and parliamentary work. At the heart of this unique model are the experiences and needs of bereaved people. This integrated approach is crucial to families, not only in making sure their voices are heard and holding the state to account for individual deaths, but also in changing policy and practice to prevent future deaths.

Such work allows us to identity patterns and trends in such deaths, and in turn to situate contentious deaths in their broader social and political contexts. In turn, this provides an evidence-basis from which to expose and challenge structural racism and all other forms of structural oppression.

The period saw increasing demands for INQUEST's casework, policy and campaign expertise on state-related deaths and their investigation.

INQUEST remains independent of government and entirely dependent on fundraising which includes donations from our supporters. We operate in a context where fundraising has become extremely challenging with an increasing demand on a decreasing pool, and trusts and foundations often closed for applications whilst reviewing their strategies.

This was also the period during which we celebrated 40 years of INQUEST, with collaborative creative projects and a new campaign for systemic change to continue building on our legacy.

We are immensely grateful to our brilliant staff team, trustees, volunteers, lawyers involved in the INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG), our funders, and the bereaved families whose expertise and courage drives our work.

Our Organisation

After a family-focused recruitment process in Spring 2023, INQUEST welcomed three family members to our Board of Trustees. The new members are Marcia Rigg, Dr Rebecca Montacute and Doug Cave. All three first came in contact with INQUEST when accessing our casework service and have remained involved in our work in various ways ever since.

The lived experience of families is one of INQUEST's greatest resources, and we are pleased to have further embedded our family engagement model in our governance structures to ensure the family voice remains at the centre of all we do.

In December 2023, INQUEST also welcomed Chris de Grasse as a new Trustee with expertise in human resources. Chris has more than 25 years of experience working in human resources, including at the Refugee Council and Greenpeace UK.

Finally, we welcomed Sanah Ahsan as a new patron at INQUEST. She is a poet and a psychologist at several organisations such as Art Against Knives.

In December 2023, we were very saddened that our long-standing Patron Benjamin Zephaniah died. Benjamin stood in solidarity with bereaved families and was a longtime friend and supporter of INQUEST. When his cousin died in police custody, alongside his family he established the Friends of Mikey Powell Campaign for Justice and commented on the sad irony of how he had gone from supporting to being supported by INQUEST.

His loss has and will be deeply felt by INQUEST and bereaved families. In 2024, Benjamin's siblings founded the Benjamin Zephaniah Family Legacy Group to ensure his legacy is celebrated.

Benjamin Zephaniah



Casework
During the year **1 April 2023** to **31 March 2024**, our casework team has worked on **886** cases, of which **414** (47%) were new cases. These cases involve police, prison, immigration and mental health services and care services for people with learning disabilities and autism.

Key figures from our casework:

334 cases (38%) involved mental health and healthcare services
198 cases (22%) involved prisons
131 cases (15%) involved police
21% of the cases we worked on involved deaths of people from Black, Asian and other racialised groups.

We also work on a number of other cases involving multi agency failings, as well as ensuring that our resources, including our comprehensive guide to the inquest system, the Inquest Handbook is available to ALL bereaved people, including those whose case falls outside of our remit.

Case study: The family of A contacted us hours after his death which involved the police. The family were distraught, angry and completely in the dark about the processes to follow. We advised them of their rights to legal representation and the importance of seeking an independent post-mortem. We secured a specialist lawyer to represent the family. A's family were supported by our casework team whilst viewing distressing video footage of the period leading to his death, which formed part of the investigation.

We arranged for another family member we work with to provide support to A's family. This 'INQUEST buddy' significantly reduced the sense of isolation of both families. The family were regularly informed of any changes to the service that could impact on them and the additional services available to them through the INQUEST Connection Café and Facebook.

Following government pandemic rules and risk assessments, we attended parts of the inquest hearing with A's family via an audio link. In addition, we organised and supported the family through multiple media interviews. Following a highly critical conclusion to the inquest, the caseworker has maintained contact with and continues to provide advice and assistance to the family as they experience the aftermath of grief.

Case study: J was an adult with severe learning disabilities under Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in a care home. J was left unsupervised by care staff despite being on 1:1 care (constant watch). J was left with a plate of food on the floor next to him. He subsequently choked to death on the sandwiches.

INQUEST provided an initial call with the family, who were very sceptical about instructing lawyers despite clear failings in J's care and an admission of neglect by the care home. Following our caseworker's call with them discussing the benefits of legal advice, the family agreed to be put in touch with lawyers who had -

worked on similar cases. Our caseworker further advised them to seek information from the coroner. Finally, INQUEST put them in touch with another family who had experienced a similar tragic loss, the mother of a man with Down's syndrome who had also choked at his care home. That family, similarly to J's, was very cynical about the processes but did decide to engage. The families discussed their decisions together, including what led them to change their mind.

The family instructed solicitors which INQUEST identified for them. Our caseworker attended their pre-inquest hearing remotely and the coroner accepted their Article 2 submissions.

Feedback from the family included: "[...] *If it hadn't been for your initial input, we wouldn't have had counsel on board at all and it is now absolutely clear that we've done the right thing.*"

Family Engagement

In the reporting year, INQUEST continues facilitating online spaces for peer-to-peer support, providing additional support and information before, during and after the inquest. Notable examples include Connection Cafés, the Facebook Group (which is jointly run by the Family Reference Group) and the revitalised Family Forums, which had been cancelled during Covid.

These safe spaces and networks of support and solidarity have been described to staff as a "lifeline" because deaths in state care are unlike any other, often involving stigma, shame, indifference, legal delays and victim-blaming. Families can be left feeling isolated from friends, colleagues and even other family members:

There is so much stigma about people who die in prison. People on the outside think "well they deserve to be there, or it's their own fault." To be able to go on the screen at the INQUEST events and connection cafe and be in company of other people who get how you feel, your anxieties, your shame. It makes me feel less ashamed about where and how [my son] died. As much as Mo [Family Engagement Coordinator] sort of runs the meetings, she lets people just talk, and when they do they talk from the heart. You speak and you don't feel judged.

Families reported feeling supported in non-judgmental ways, making INQUEST's expertise and experience in supporting families vital when no other comparable services exist to deal with state-related deaths:
I felt valued and listened to from the very first time I spoke to my case worker. Throughout our time together she never judged or made me feel as though my son was not worthy of the time that would need to be spent looking into the failures behind his death. Her warmth was always welcome and helped me through the bad times. (Family member)
Opening up new online opportunities for talking to and hearing from families has improved the organisation's capacity for sharing information, guidance and advice, and has helped develop a greater sense of community and solidarity with those who shared the experience of an investigation or inquest:
Initially my priority was to connect with like-minded people / other families who could relate to what I was going through. What I have learnt is that through these connections I am finding the strength and inspiration to continue the fight for justice for my loved one. (Family member)

Big thanks to [the Family Engagement Coordinator] for the way she runs these and thanks to all the families who share experiences that reduce isolation but also significantly help us to understand the complex inquest process and participate better. (Family member)
I love Connection Café; it has been a huge support and gave me strength to face the inquest. (Family member).

Further support was available through useful tips and links to information on the website, the INQUEST Handbook (a legal guide to the inquest system provided to every family that contacts the organisation), the Skills Toolkit (a practical guide to engaging with the inquest and its aftermath) and FAQ factsheets.

What families say about our work

Through our evaluation and monitoring, families have reported a high level of satisfaction with the service and support they received from the casework service, with 87% believing it to be very good (75%) or good (12%).

Where families felt the service had been less than satisfactory, factors included cases falling outside our remit, irregular contact with their caseworker or a lack of clarity around what their caseworker could and couldn't offer them.

Families acknowledged the support they received equipped them to participate more meaningfully in investigations, inquests and the pursuit of justice:

As a family we had no idea of where to turn for help in finding answers to the questions we had. After contacting INQUEST, they were able to give us the guidance that we needed to start the ball rolling in seeking justice for our loved one. (Family member)

The support and expertise INQUEST provided helped so much, we were distraught, and INQUEST shed light on the way through a daunting system with the legal support we needed to do so. Thank you. (Family member)
Those families who were able to access specialist legal representation from ILG members felt better prepared and better equipped to participate in what can be a long drawn-out and complex legal process. Families who responded to INQUEST's questionnaire were overwhelmingly positive, with 94% regarding their legal representation as very good (82%) or good (12%) with the other 6% satisfied.
Importantly, families who participated in the new support activities such as the Mind, Skills, Body workshops were even more positive: 100% felt more able to manage and be resilient, 90% felt less isolated and 90% felt more connected to other families.
The process was so life affirming because it gave me back control over my own emotions and grieving. It helped me to feel confident again in myself and managing my mental and physical state, that it's okay to feel sad, but it's also okay to do something about it on a day-to-day level. The little things in life can be very comforting. It was good to laugh and cry together as a group, instead of focusing on our campaigns etc. (Family member)

Systemic Change Work

As well as providing support for individual families, INQUEST also works to take the learnings and lessons from those deaths to fight for national change. Our work to make changes systemically is outlined below.

The case for a National Oversight Mechanism – The No More Deaths Campaign
On 27 June 2023, we came together in parliament with bereaved families, parliamentarians and campaigners to mark the launch of our newest campaign, No More Deaths: The case for a National Oversight Mechanism.
The campaign seeks to ensure transparency and fix the accountability gap following preventable state-related deaths by calling from the government to establish a public body to monitor recommendations from inquests, public inquiries and other official investigations into state-related deaths. Chaired by Helena Kennedy KC, who described INQUEST as "one of the most important human rights organisations", the event heard from a range of speakers including Deborah Coles, Leslie Thomas KC, Andy Slaughter MP and bereaved families.
The loss of a child changes your DNA. The natural order of the world is permanently disrupted even though the sun dares to show its face each morning. Amid all this, one other thought persists: a resolve that no other parent should suffer like you needlessly. Richard Caseby, the father of Matthew Caseby, who died whilst in the care of The Priory.



Marienna Pope-Weidemann, the cousin of 19-year-old Gaia Pope who died in 2017, also spoke at the event. Gaia was a rape survivor with complex needs who had been repeatedly failed by the police, mental health and social care services, and went missing from her home in Dorset. Marienna wrote in ***the i*** about her family's experiences and why she supports our #NoMoreDeaths campaign. In her powerful call to action, she said:

The law may be complex, but the truth is simple. As long as inquests give only the illusion of accountability, the state saves face, and it is people like Gaia who pay with their lives.

We produced a video alongside families in which they describe the need for a National Oversight Mechanism. Christian Weaver, barrister and former INQUEST caseworker, produced a *Law In 60 Seconds* video on the National Oversight Mechanism. It makes a very strong case for better oversight of recommendations and has already been an effective boost for the campaign, with more than 4,700 signatures to date.

Other key influencing work includes:

In spring 2023, we submitted **evidence to the UN Special Rapporteur** on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as part of their report on deaths in custody. It focused on key findings from our recent reports on institutional racism and a lack of follow-up to key recommendations on deaths.

Brook House Public Inquiry

Prior to the inquiry being set up, we provided a witness statement arguing why an independent inquiry was needed rather than an investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. This was described by lawyers as being

instrumental to the inquiry being set up. In addition we provided a detailed witness statement to the inquiry based on our work on deaths in immigration detention and the issues arising. The inquiry published a damning report, outlining "inexcusable and unconscionable dehumanising abuse of vulnerable people" by the Home Office, inexcusable use of force, segregation, and the "wholesale failure" to protect vulnerable people instead leading to a deterioration in mental health and self-harm. The findings have a far wider impact in addressing and preventing abuse across all immigration detention centres.

Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

This is the first Scottish public inquiry of this kind into a death in police custody. Our executive director Deborah Coles has worked alongside the family and their legal team since Sheku's death in 2015, sharing her expertise on restraint-related deaths. Through her influencing work with the Scottish Justice Secretary and the First Minister, she played a key part in the setting up of the inquiry. We were also instrumental in gaining commitment from the inquiry to include race within its terms of reference. Deborah has submitted extensive written and oral evidence on police-related deaths involving Black and racialised people, the treatment of bereaved people and the post-death investigation processes to inform the inquiry.
Deborah Coles has also given oral evidence at the inquiry.

Other Scotland work

Deborah has established relationships with multiple stakeholders working on deaths in custody in Scotland including lawyers, academics, NGOs, families, inspection and investigation bodies, and human rights organisations.

We are working with some families bereaved after a death in custody and have been monitoring the legal processes that have followed, and this has helped identify some of the systemic problems with the investigation processes and the lack of support available for bereaved people. Our expertise on deaths in custody and detention, and the treatment of bereaved people, is being sought by a variety of organisations and specialist bodies as well as by bereaved families themselves.

At present, we are unable to properly respond to the demand for our work in Scotland due a lack of capacity and are seeking funding to support the work.

FreeHer Abolition Feminism Now Conference

Our director was invited speaker to the 10*th* Sisters Inside international conference in Australia in November2023. The conference brought together key social change international leaders, including Professor Angela Davis, Debbie Kilroy, Andrea J Ritchie, Andrea James, Professor Tracey McIntosh, Professor Beth Richie, Senator Kim Pate and Victoria Law.



Hillsborough Law

During the period INQUEST has worked closely with campaigners for the enactment of a Hillsborough Law and as part of Hillsborough Law Now.
In December 2023, the government finally responded to the review by Bishop James to which INQUEST made a **submission** and organised a **family listening day** where bereaved people discussed their experiences following deaths of relatives in contact with the police, in prisons and in mental health and learning disability settings. Many of the concerns raised by INQUEST and the families

we work with were reflected in the recommendations. The government rejected the call for a Hillsborough law, to which we responded.
Since then, Deborah Coles spoke at the parliamentary launch of the **Hillsborough Law Now campaign launch** and INQUEST worked with the Hillsborough Law Now campaign and the organisation JUSTICE to advocate for a Hillsborough Law and a statutory duty of candour during debates on the Victims and Prisoners Bill (now Act). We produced a series of joint briefings for multiple stages of debate in both the House of Commons and House of Lords and worked with MPs, peers and the then Shadow Justice team on a series of amendments, including a duty of candour and to improve the government's plans for an Independent Public Advocate for victims of major disasters. While the amendment for a duty of candour was not agreed to by parliament, the Victims and Prisoners Act achieved Royal Assent in May 2024. The new Labour government have since committed to enacting a Hillsborough Law which they will introduce to parliament by April 2025.

Work on the Coroner Service

The Justice Select Committee launched a follow-up inquiry into the Coroner Service in 2023 to review government progress on their 2021 report. That report had been significantly informed by our written submission, a report containing contributions from 51 bereaved families as well as Deborah Coles, and Andy McCulloch, a bereaved father, giving oral evidence to the inquiry. INQUEST worked with committee specialists to brief them on key areas of concern we believed should be explored, such as a lack of oversight to recommendations and delays in the system.

We had a more confident, upskilled, and informed cohort of families, ready to engage through Consultation Cafés and various meetings which in turn encouraged us to ensure our wider community of families knew about this influencing work and how to engage. We worked with the committee clerks to ensure that there was an opportunity for members to hear directly from families. To inform their follow-up inquiry, we organised a roundtable between the committee members and 8 families (11 individuals) to tell members directly about the experiences of being a family involved in an inquest after a state-related death. Families were briefed in advance and supported afterwards.

They gave positive feedback about their experience, with one family member saying it was the first time in the process they felt listened to. INQUEST submitted a comprehensive response to the committee's inquiry, which covers a broad range of issues affecting families. Deborah Coles also gave further evidence to the committee on 20th February 2024. One MP spoke of how important it had been to their inquiry to hear directly from families. The decision to hold this follow-up inquiry was directly influenced by their Chair Bob Neill MP attending the launch of our campaign described below and hearing from families attending the event about their negative experiences of the inquest system.

Our policy, campaigning and media work over the period has focused on both the human stories and the broader social and political context in which they take place. For example, bereaved families, alongside INQUEST and journalists, have been challenging the ongoing failures of private mental health hospitals. Recent investigations by *The Times* into The Priory Group, and by the *Guardian* into a range of private providers, have highlighted the extent of the issues with these companies. They are putting profit over patient safety in their treatment of both NHS and private patients, with fatal consequences.

Following the death of Matthew Caseby, and as a result of our work with the family, **Priory Healthcare Ltd admitted criminal failures** for exposing an NHS patient to serious risk of harm in March 2024. A judge at Birmingham City Magistrates Court sentenced the private healthcare provider and imposed the fine of £650,000. This is the third and largest-ever fine faced by the Priory following a death under their care. The charge was brought for exposing Matthew Caseby to serious risk of harm when he was a patient at the Woodbourne Priory hospital in Birmingham in 2020.

Our work challenging widespread failures in Essex Mental Health Services also continued. On 28 June 2023, it was announced that the Essex Mental Health Independent Inquiry would be granted statutory status under the Inquiries Act 2005. This was because of the lack of candour of Essex Mental Health Trust and its staff.

On 4 September 2023, it was announced that the chair to the inquiry was to be Baroness Kate Lampard CBE.

This is a result of the campaigning and lobbying work INQUEST has done alongside the family of Melanie Leahy, the mother of Matthew Leahy who died whilst sectioned at the Linden Centre in Essex. Melanie had been campaigning for years for a statutory public inquiry. When she finally secured a parliamentary debate in November 2020, we decided to stand with her and other families affected and supported her call, which she has now finally secured. In December 2023 we successfully applied to be Core Participants and as such are able to significantly contribute to the inquiry.

In April 2023, we collaborated on the Liberty guide "Holding Our Own, a guide to non-policing solutions to serious youth violence". It calls for a new approach to serious youth violence, including better-funded youth services and a rolling back of police powers.

We produced, alongside JUSTICE, a guide for practitioners to achieve racial justice in the inquest process which we launched in a public event in February 2024. The guide was in response to research INQUEST had

done with families and inquest lawyers looking at how the question of race and racism was not considered in investigation and inquests and was therefore invisible.

I wish to extend my gratitude to JUSTICE and INQUEST, whose commission of this report reflects a commitment to advancing the understanding of issues surrounding deaths in state

custody, with a particular emphasis on the intersection of race and justice. This report builds on the previous invaluable work of INQUEST, including inter alia their groundbreaking 2023 report I Can't Breathe, *contributing to a growing body of knowledge aimed at fostering positive change.* Professor Leslie Thomas KC

Home Office review into police use of force. In October 2023, the Home Office announced a review into police use of force and driving related incidents. Among other things, the review sought to examine two Supreme Court judgements which INQUEST intervened in on the legal test for use of force at disciplinary hearings and inquests as well as the legal test for unlawful killing conclusions. INQUEST worked with ILG members and the Police Action Lawyers Group (PALG) on a response. We also coordinated a joint open letter to the then Home Secretary on the review which was endorsed by key NGOs and grassroots organisations working on policing.

INQUEST and a group of specialist lawyers met with the Home Office review team to discuss our concerns. The government then announced they would be conducting a wider review into police accountability but did not proceed with this work prior to the July 2024 election. The new government have since picked this work back up and announced another review into the Supreme Court cases noted above in October 2024. INQUEST, PALG and the ILG have since submitted further evidence to the review.

Consultations on prison management. We submitted evidence to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture's review into prison management. Our Policy Team met with the researcher working on the review to learn more about the focus of the review, as the terms of reference were very wide in scope. Accordingly, our response provides a snapshot of the main concerns arising out of investigations into deaths in prison, featuring a PFD analysis from the past two years. Our Policy and Parliamentary Manager also submitted a response to the Justice Select Committee's inquiry into prison operational capacity, highlighting recent PFDs which note issues of overcrowding / staff shortages and stretched resources in prisons.

At the invitation of Professor Barry Goldson, Deborah Coles was invited to present the Eleanor Rathbone Social Justice Public Lecture at Liverpool University. She presented on women's deaths in prison, and this was an opportunity to interrogate our casework and associated policy work in this area and argue for radical transformative change in the way we treat women in conflict with the law.



Deborah Coles and Professor Barry Goldson

We worked closely with the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation. Daphne was a Maltese writer, journalist, blogger and anti-corruption activist who reported on political events in Malta and was known internationally for her investigation of the Panama Papers and her subsequent assassination by car bomb. The foundation sought our expertise in the establishment of a human rights organisation modelled on INQUEST and the investigation of state-related deaths. The work included a Malta visit, a seminar with their team and Maltese lawyers, and meetings with the British High Commissioner and three Ombudsmen and Matthew Caruana Galizia, her son and chair of the foundation. We later organised a seminar in London, bringing together team members working on the different strands of our integrated model.

Deborah Coles produced and sent a letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee regarding the **Bibby Stockholm barge and the death of Leonard Farruku.** We made a request for an independent investigation in light of the concerns raised. Bibby Stockholm: Asylum seeker on board barge dies, BBC News (See our comments calling for an investigation).

During this period, our director delivered training as part of the **Chief Coroners Judicial College training programme for coroners**. She focused on the importance of Prevention of Deaths reports (PFDs) in the family and public interest and how they could be improved. This of course included outlining our call for a National Oversight Mechanism that would ensure oversight of action taken in response to these reports.

Grenfell

As part of our policy work on Grenfell, we marked the **Grenfell sixth anniversary** by writing a blog here about the importance to "keep talking about Grenfell" six years on. We attended the **Grenfell sixth anniversary silent walk** and put the organisers in touch with Marcia Rigg, who then spoke on state-related deaths and injustice afterwards. We also attended the 6.5 year anniversary silent walk in December and spoke with Grenfell United about continuing to work together and plans for 2024, particularly in regard to the inquiry report, outstanding recommendations and the No More Deaths Campaign.



Grenfell Testimony Week: We met with the organisers of Grenfell Testimony Week, to discuss their process for putting the week together. They used our model of the Grenfell Family Consultation Day to help inform their planning and design. After this we met with the organisers for updates about how the week would run.

In January, **we attended the Grenfell Testimony Week in support of the bereaved families** and the Grenfell community. Families gave incredibly powerful and moving testimonies. We had the opportunity to speak with families in person, many of whom expressed gratitude for INQUEST's continued support. We were also told by the interpreter for the Ethiopian and Eritrean community group that over the year families have said that when they have felt voiceless INQUEST have spoken up and supported them. A few families agreed to include part of their testimonies in the No More Deaths campaign. We also spoke with press and Forensic Architecture. Our director chaired an evaluation meeting of the project.

Grenfell debate in the House of Commons: We were contacted by Emma Dent Coad and contributed to briefing on the Grenfell debate, which was sent to press and MPs, here. We attended parliament to watch the debate, we followed this up with social media posts about the debate and No More Deaths campaign, which had good engagement.

We liaised with the Inquiry Legal Team regarding whether they will be publishing our submission (from the end of the inquiry in 2022) on recommendations and have been advised that the inquiry panel are reviewing submissions. Our submission focused on the importance of implementing recommendations following the phase two report need for a National Oversight Mechanism.

As we awaited the phase two report, we **continued to monitor the progress of recommendations** and regularly highlight the fact that the government had not yet implemented key recommendations.

We continued to support **Claddag's campaign around Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans** and included their High Court challenge in our written evidence to the House of Lords Statutory Inquiries Committee.

Through Claddag's support of the No More Deaths campaign we were introduced to other disability rights activists and organisations who now support the campaign, such as Adam Gabsi, who is Chair of Inclusion at the London and Harrow Association of Disabled People. We established contact with the End Our Cladding Scandal campaign group through attending **Sheila McKechnie Foundation Learning Exchange sessions**. They are now supporters of the No More Deaths campaign and help us to share messaging around the campaign and Grenfell recommendations.

40 Year of INQUEST - Heritage Project

In 2023, and with a two-year delay due to Covid, we celebrated 40 years of INQUEST, with collaborative creative projects and a new campaign for change to continue building on our legacy.
In collaboration with the Bishopsgate Institute, we created an archive of our casework, reports, media and family participation engagement records from the past 40 years. We trained and worked with family members doing so. The content has since been digitised.
Our Heritage project presented an opportunity to work with students at the University of Westminster, which has since developed into a standalone project, CSJR X INQUEST. We also held an event at the University, bringing together INQEST families, project staff and Simon Israel, former journalist at Channel 4 News.



Tour at Bishopsgate Institute for University of Westminster Students

We also launched our **podcast** ***Unlawful Killing: Death, resistance and the fight for justice.***
Drawing on four decades of campaigning and in conversation with those at the forefront of these struggles, hosts Lee Lawrence, advocate and son of Cherry Groce, and Lucy McKay (previously Media and Communications Manager at INQUEST), shone a light on injustice and amplify stories of resistance.



The INQUEST team and Lee Lawrence in the podcast recording studio

We published a **40 Years of INQUEST report**, upon which one of our founding members Celia Stubbs reflected:
When I helped to set up INQUEST over forty years ago with four other family campaigns: Matthew O'Hara, Richard 'Cartoon' Campbell, Jimmy Kelly and Liddle Towers, I never imagined that we would be here all these decades later.

The report provides a snapshot of INQUEST's work over 40 years and moments of real progress, the key campaigning, legal and political impact it has made and how speaking truth to power, and demanding truth from power, has made a difference.



SoulsINQUEST

SoulsINQUEST was a collaboration between 17 bereaved families, who worked alongside our team and professional photographer Sara Booker to use photography and writing as a way of exploring state violence, death, grief, resistance and to commemorate their loved ones. The process involved photographic portraits of bereaved family members alongside written narratives about the person who had died. Families wrote and met together to discuss exhibiting the work.

The launch of the SoulsINQUEST project in took place in London on 12 May 2023 at 189 Gallery in Brixton. Over a hundred people attended the launch and the exhibition had extensive coverage in the *Guardian*, ITV London, *Inside Time* and *Each Other*.

Families helped organise a discussion on raising the collective voice of bereaved people, and what is needed to engage communities in raising awareness of state-related deaths. This event, *Justice & Beyond: Resistance, Community, Change*, was attended by over 50 people. Speakers included Lee Lawrence (FRG member, campaigner and son of Cherry Groce) and Jefferson Bosela (family campaigner and cousin of Chris Kaba).

Anna Susianta, SoulsINQUEST participant and member of the INQUEST Family Reference group who started the project, said:

SoulsINQUEST gave us the opportunity to share our stories in a new way, as a collective. We focused on the love our lost ones spread in their shortened lives, to counteract the continuing impact of pain in our own lives. So, we paused in our fight for justice and reminded ourselves of our dear family member no longer here. People should come to see SoulsINQUEST to learn about how our loved ones died, and to see what strength and love we have gained as a group from making and sharing visual memories in tribute to those loved ones.

It has been a cathartic experience to describe the character of our loved ones to each other, in talking and using photography, as well as the manner of their death using writing. I have

felt energised and found solace through this creative process. Bereavement isolates you and can destroy your life, but SoulsINQUEST brought us together in solidarity and power for our loved ones.





Since this, a second SoulsINQUEST exhibition has been held in Glasgow in May 2024. The launch saw the attendance from a broad group of policymakers and organisations, including the Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland, the National Preventative Mechanism, the Human Rights Commission, NGOs, and theatre and arts groups. This enabled engagement and discussion on the broader issues surrounding deaths in custody to new and diverse audiences. It also strengthened ongoing relationships with key stakeholders whilst supporting our wider strategic aims in Scotland where we aim to further embed our work.
Both exhibitions attracted significant media interest, including in the *Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *the Herald Scotland*, who even recommended the exhibition as one of its 10 'must sees'.



Following conversations at the Connection Café and other events, the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Banner project emerged. Families were invited to submit fabric squares which would be sewn together to create a banner commemorating the lives of loved ones. The INQUEST team ran seven workshops providing families

with opportunities to learn fabric sewing techniques, share their experience and come together as a community. We updated families through the Facebook Group and newsletters on progress and photographs of the completed banner were shared with all INQUEST families.
In July 2023, an online event was held where participants reflected on their squares, describing their emotional response and connection to the project.

The banner project created solidarity and new communities (cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles got involved), many of whom had never engaged directly with INQUEST before. Importantly, the banner also served to challenge harmful and misleading public assertions made about their loved ones.

Taking the 40th banner to the UFFC4 procession in October 2023 was one of the most moving experiences I've had at INQUEST. There was such a sense of pride and unity in the families that had taken part and an enthusiasm from other families to contribute to a second banner. At Hamilton House after the march, we witnessed the diversity of families that state violence harms (social class, race, location, age, gender, circumstances of death) and I could feel the solidarity that was being strengthened in the room." (INQUEST staff member)



Commemorative family banner

Families formed an "indispensable core" of other aspects of the 40th Anniversary project, from oral history volunteers and interviewees. Speaking about her involvement in the oral history project (conducting interviews and being interviewed), one family participant said:

I felt positive that I was contributing in a small way to adding to the archive chronicling the work of INQUEST. I had the opportunity to learn new skills which took me out of my comfort zone. I would probably not have been willing to step outside of my comfort zone had I not been so grateful for the support I have had from INQUEST staff both before the inquest for my daughter took place, and since with the family activities.



Oral History Training Day with On the Record

Additional activities that formed part of the Heritage project included the documentary *The UK is Not Innocent*, produced by INQUEST and The Rainbow Collective a social justice arts collective. This project re-awakened organisational trust in the belief that families were more than capable of shaping and leading activities. This is a really positive development in how the organisation works and it should embrace developments in a future that will require ever-more authentic and resourceful ways to amplify its imperative belief in creating a fairer and transparent inquest system.

Other public events

***Justice in the Archive* @ Bishopsgate Institute on 11 March 2023** was a chance to showcase the first part of the INQUEST archive. We chaired a conversation between Marcia Rigg (family campaigner) and Celia Stubbs (INQUEST founder and campaigner, partner of Blair Peach). Attendees all described the event as "excellent" and commented on the "warm atmosphere" and that they liked "the speakers, archive material, camaraderie, the solidarity".



***40:20:1* – 25 November 2024** at the Legacy Centre, Birmingham to mark INQUEST's 40 Year history alongside 20 years since the death of Mikey Powell (connected to the National Mikey Powell Memorial Family Fund who we work closely with) and the first year of an awards ceremony to celebrate families' contributions and campaigning work.

***Accidental Death of an Anarchist* Theatre Play**



The cast and crew with Aji Lewis, Anna Susianta, Marcia Rigg and our Director Deborah Coles

INQUEST and members of our family reference group worked with the team behind the latest adaption of the Dario Fo political satire, ***Accidental Death of an Anarchist*** which was performed in London's West End at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in the summer of 2023.



Writer Tom Basden and director Daniel Raggett brought the classic play up to date, with a focus on the Metropolitan Police. INQUEST met with the cast about our work. We also collated statistics on deaths in police custody which were used as a visual at the end of the show with a QR code to our website. Our director also took part in a post-show question and answer session. This collaboration enabled us to reach new audiences.

The INQUEST shop

We worked together with Black Lodge Press to create brand new INQUEST merchandise. **Every purchase is a donation towards our vital work, supporting bereaved families in their fight for truth, justice and accountability.**



Angela Davis and our director, Deborah Coles, showcasing the new INQUEST merchandise

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1046650

Company registration number: 03054853

Registered and principal office: Unit T3
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees
The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Diane Newton (Chair)
Daniel Machover
Geraldine Isherwood
Kevin Blowe (terminated 25 January 2024)
Ruth Bundey
Joe Sim
Stephen Tombs (Deputy Chair)
Rajiv Menon
Sirgun Asa Danielsson (terminated 01 September 2023)
Pete Weatherby
Patrick Williams
Douglas Stephen Cave (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Marcia Patricia Rigg- Samuel (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Christine De Grasse (appointed on 18 December 2023)

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2023 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary: Arnaud Vervoitte

Chief Executive Officer: Deborah Coles

Statutory Auditors: Barcant Beardon Limited
Chartered Accountants
8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

Banker: Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham B1 2HB

Staff

At 31st March 2024, the total staff number was 19:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework
Caroline Finney, Caseworker (resigned 13 March 2024)
Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Luana D'Arco Yakubu, Casework Assistant
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer
Rosanna Ellul, Senior Policy & Parliamentary Officer
Mura Peliti - Operations & Development Officer
Naomi Oppenheim – Heritage Project Coordinator
Leila Hagman – Media and Communication Assistant
Catherine Rosina Diales – PA (appointed 10 October 2023)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources,

including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

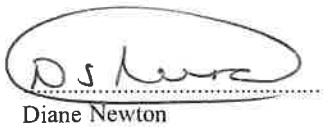
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Diane Newton
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19 December 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

20th December 2024

Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	610,478	467,825	1,078,303	1,127,589
Charitable activities	4	-	42,604	42,604	8,250
Other trading activities	5	-	19,115	19,115	11,812
Investments	6	-	6,122	6,122	2,957
Total income and endowments		610,478	535,666	1,146,144	1,150,608
Expenditure on:					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	7	-	89,861	89,861	81,524
Charitable activities	8	620,878	542,890	1,163,768	1,036,811
Total expenditure		620,878	632,751	1,253,629	1,118,335
Net income/(expenditure)		(10,400)	(97,085)	(107,485)	32,273
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(10,400)	(97,085)	(107,485)	32,273
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		10,400	197,608	208,008	175,735
Total funds carried forward		-	100,523	100,523	208,008

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	10,286	13,042
Current assets			
Debtors	16	111,436	62,207
Cash at bank and in hand		311,655	443,141
		423,091	505,348
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(332,854)	(310,382)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		90,237	194,966
Net assets		100,523	208,008
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	10,400
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	19	100,523	197,608
Total charity funds		100,523	208,008

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Geraldine Isherwood
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19.12.24

The notes on pages 26 to 36 form part of these financial statements.
Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	(133,544)	265,299
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest income		6,122	2,957
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,064)	(7,739)
Net cash used in investing activities		2,058	(4,782)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(131,486)	260,517
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		443,141	182,624
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		311,655	443,141
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in bank and in hand		311,655	443,141
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22.1	311,655	443,141

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.0 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gifts	173,315	105,081
Gift Aid tax reclaims	11,000	19,206
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	22,000	35,000
Allen and Overy(Unrestricted)	5,000	-
The Blue Moon Trust (Unrestricted)	10,000	-
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	25,000	40,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	55,000	94,986
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	114,000	162,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	97,051	97,785
Grants from other sources (Restricted and Unrestricted)	529,927	524,211
Memberships	36,010	49,320
	1,078,303	1,127,589

3.1 Income from donations and legacies was £1,078,303 (2023 - £1,127,589) of which £610,478 (2023 - £611,996) was attributable to restricted and £467,825 (2023 - £515,593) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4.0	***Income from Charitable Activities***	2024 £	2023 £
	Income from consulting and training services	37,970	3,945
	Income from publications	4,634	4,305
	Income from grants	-	-
		42,604	8,250

4.1 Income from charitable activities was £42,604 (2023 - £8,250) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £42,604 (2023 - £8,250) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5.0	***Income from Other Trading Activities***	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Fundraising events	19,115	11,812

6.0	***Income from Investments***	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Interest – bank	6,122	2,957

7.0	***Expenditure on Raising Funds***	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Staff costs	82,737	77,482
	Other fundraising costs	7,124	4,042
		89,861	81,524

8.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

8.1 Charitable Activities 2024

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	422,068	-	422,068
Casework and other family support	569,083	137,778	706,861
Publications	34,839	-	34,839
	1,025,990	137,778	1,163,768

Charitable Activities 2023

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	383,824	-	383,824
Casework and other family support	512,754	120,937	633,691
Publications	19,296	-	19,296
	915,874	120,937	1,036,811

8.2 Of the £1,163,768 expenditures in 2024 (2023 - £1,036,811), £620,878 (2023 - £647,496) was attributable to restricted funds and £542,890 (2023 - £389,315) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support	Governance costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Premises	67,029	-	67,029	58,535
Office running	5,262	-	5,262	17,006
Information technology	22,438	-	22,438	24,726
Legal and professional	16,597	-	16,597	3,041
Bookkeeping	4,349	-	4,349	1,189
Depreciation	6,820	-	6,820	6,744
Audit/Independent examination	-	14,900	14,900	9,600
Trustees' expenses	-	383	383	96
	122,495	15,283	137,778	120,937

10.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	14,900	9,600
Depreciation	6,820	6,744
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	52,800	52,800

11.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2023 – none). Travel costs amounting to £250 (2023 - £116) were reimbursed to 1 (2023 – two) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £49 (2023 - £nil). No (2023 – No) trustee(s) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2023 - £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2023 – Nil).

12.0 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	764,821	701,757
Social security costs	74,551	72,301
Pensions	61,402	55,763
	900,774	829,821

12.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	2	2

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £12,351 (2023 - £11,762).

12.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £227,546 (2023 - £216,079). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Casework.

13.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 18.42 staff (2023: 18.72 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Direct charitable work	18.42	17.7

14.0 Taxation

Inquest Charitable Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	45,103
Additions	4,064
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	49,167
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2023	32,061
Charge for the year	6,820
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	38,881
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2024	10,286
At 1 April 2023	13,042

16.0 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	13,685	9,535
Grants receivables and accrued income	80,970	44,239
Prepayments	16,781	8,433
	111,436	62,207

17.0 ***Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year***	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	12,249	2,262
Taxation and social security	20,009	23,704
Accruals	53,586	76,658
Other creditors	63,691	9,936
Deferred income (see note 18)	183,319	197,822
	332,854	310,382

17.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £8,401 (2023 - £8,044).

18.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total £
Balance as at 1 April 2023	197,822
Amount released in the year	(197,822)
Amount deferred in the year	183,319
Balance as at 31 March 2024	183,319

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
General funds	197,608	535,666	(632,751)	-	100,523

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2023 £
General funds	129,835	538,612	(470,839)	-	197,608

Name of unrestricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
General funds	The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

19.1 ***Restricted Funds – Current year***

	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
Baring Foundation	-	15,833	(15,833)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	2,400	8,833	(11,233)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	151,061	(151,061)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	60,670	(60,670)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	58,500	(58,500)	-	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	13,937	(13,937)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	8,000	99,949	(107,949)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	97,051	(97,051)	-	-
United Nations	-	4,644	(4,644)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	10,400	610,478	(620,878)	-	-

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2023 £
Baring Foundation	-	35,333	(35,333)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	4,900	24,500	(27,000)	-	2,400
National Lottery Community Fund	41,000	143,225	(184,225)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	64,627	(64,627)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	57,400	(57,400)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	50,000	(42,000)	-	8,000
Oak Foundation	-	97,786	(97,786)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	4,125	(4,125)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	(70,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	52,500	(52,500)	-	-
	45,900	611,996	(647,496)	-	10,400

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
Baring Foundation	change work around addressing structural racism.
Barrow Cadbury Trust	Policy & influencing, family participation
National Lottery Community Fund	England & Wales casework, family participation
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	London casework
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garden Court	Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
Open Society Foundation	Covid specific work
United Nations	Casework

Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Trust for London	Casework, policy and campaign work in London
Garfield Weston Foundation	Provision of casework
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Legacy project associated with INQUEST's 40th anniversary
Legal Education Foundation	Provision of casework and capacity building in the legal sector

20.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	10,286	10,286
Cash at bank and in hand	-	311,655	311,655
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(221,418)	(221,418)
	-	100,523	100,523

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	13,042	13,042
Cash at bank and in hand	10,400	432,741	443,141
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(248,175)	(248,175)
	10,400	197,608	208,008

21.0 Operating Leases - Lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than one year	52,800	52,800
Later than one and not later than five years	8,800	61,600
More than five years	-	-
	61,600	114,400

22.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the year	(107,485)	32,273
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(6,122)	(2,957)
Depreciation	6,820	6,744
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(49,229)	59,363
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	22,472	169,876
	(133,544)	265,299

22.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 31 March 2023	Cash-flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	443,141	(131,486)	311,655

23.0 Related Party Transactions

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £8,575 (2023 - £8,225).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 11, donations and other income totalling £240(2023 - £830) were receivable from trustees during the year.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1046650

Accounts

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

INQUEST Charitable Trust works to end deaths caused by unsafe systems of detention and care, use of force and by institutional failure. Through our work we also seek to reduce the number of custodial deaths and improve the treatment and care of those within the institutions where the deaths occur. INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide specialist advice and support to bereaved families following a sudden or unexpected death in systems of custody, care and detention. Founded in 1981, our work spans across prisons, police, and mental health and learning disability institutions and multi-agency failings. The evidence gathered from our specialist casework with thousands of bereaved people over 35 years informs our policy, lobbying and campaigns. This way of working is crucial to families, not only in holding the state to account for the individual deaths, but also in changing policy and practice. Our unique overview makes INQUEST an authority on post-death investigations and inquests, allowing us to drive the campaign to improve the inquest procedures for all bereaved people, improve mechanisms for holding government, state and corporate bodies to account and campaign for systemic change.

INQUEST Charitable Trust was established in 1995 to complement and assist the work of its sister organisation INQUEST, founded in 1981. In March 2004, the two organisations merged into a single charitable organisation known publicly as INQUEST. As set out in its articles of association, INQUEST aims:

- To advance education of the public by, in particular, research into and publication and dissemination of information concerning sudden or unexplained deaths or deaths which are or may be subject to a Coroner's inquest.
- To provide relief of distress amongst the bereaved in particular by provision of information, advice, counselling and support.
- To undertake any other charitable objective.

Core Activities

1. ***Casework***: INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide a specialist, comprehensive advice service on contentious deaths and their investigation to people bereaved by a death in custody/state care or detention and/or raise wider issues of state and corporate accountability. INQUEST pays particular attention to all cases that engage Article 2 of the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights).

INQUESTS's casework priorities are deaths in:

- prisons
- policy custody and following police contact
- mental health and learning disability institutions
- immigration detention
- through multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question

2. ***Policy and parliamentary work:*** this is informed by our casework; data collection and wider research and we work to ensure that the collective experiences of bereaved people underpin this. In addition to leading the policy agenda, we work in partnership with families and empower them to present their cases directly to parliamentarians and policy makers.

3. ***Family Empowerment and Engagement:*** we organise family events and activities to ensure families are supported and able to influence wider systemic change. We hold family forums which bring together families to support each other and share experiences, reducing the isolation and sense of bewilderment families feel. We have a family reference group which is remitted to engage in and help shape INQUEST's work. To enable families to influence policy and practice, we organise Family Listening Days; this is a unique model that INQUEST has developed.

4. ***Inquest Lawyers Group:*** we manage the Inquest Lawyers Group (ILG) which is a national group of lawyers who act in the field of inquest law predominantly for bereaved families and share INQUEST's objectives. The Group is overseen by a steering committee which organises training, seminars and fundraising events and contributes to our policy work.

FUND-RAISING STANDARDS INFORMATION

INQUEST is committed to fundraising best practice. We follow the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice, which includes the General Data Protection Regulations, introduced in 2018. Our staff maintain a considerate and non-intrusive approach to fundraising. We do not undertake cold-calling or employ third parties to raise funds. We enjoy a very positive relationship with all our funders and supporters. No complaint has been received and all fundraising activity is reviewed at our Finance and Personnel Subcommittee, held at least 4 times per year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document
INQUEST Charitable Trust is a registered charity (number 1046650) and a company limited by guarantee (number 03054853).

INQUEST is constituted as a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 10 May 1995 and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 May 1995. In the event of the company being wound up, all trustees present, and 12 months past are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are referred to as the Trustees or Board of Trustees.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction
New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees and are recruited in line with our equal opportunities policy and taking regard of any skills gaps within the existing Board to ensure a collective mix of skills, experiences, knowledge and qualities that will enable INQUEST to effectively meet the needs of its service users. The Board elects Officers from amongst its membership.

Prior to appointment, prospective Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director and at least one other trustee or key member of staff. New Trustees receive information including the Memorandum and Articles, accounts, business plans, Charity Commission and other literature. Introductory briefings with the Executive Director and key staff are provided.

As of 31 March 2023, INQUEST had eleven Trustees. The Trustees bring a broad range of highly relevant skills and knowledge from their backgrounds in human rights, academia, the law and organisational development together with strategic development and governance skills. The Trustees all have a strong commitment to social justice and equality.

Structure
The Board meets between 4 and 6 times a year and is responsible for the good governance of the organisation, employment of its staff and its overall strategic direction in conjunction with the Executive Director. The Board is supported by the Finance and Personnel sub-committee, made up of at least 3 Trustees and meets 4 times a year, in between full Board meetings at which it reports back and make full recommendations to the Board. The Executive Director, with the Operations Director, attend all meetings and other staff attend when required.

Remuneration of Staff
Remuneration is benchmarked with salaries for similar roles in organisations in the charitable sector and salaries are reviewed on an annual basis, and increased, where appropriate, subject to contractual agreements, inflation, performance or changes in scope of work. The remuneration of the Executive Director is approved by the Board and the remuneration of other staff is approved by the Executive Director.

Staff

At 31st March 2023, the total staff number was 17:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework
Caroline Finney, Caseworker
Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Luana D'Arco Yakubu, Casework Assistant
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer
Rosanna Ellul, Senior Policy & Parliamentary Officer
Mira Peliti - Operations & Development Officer
Naomi Oppenheim - Heritage Project Coordinator (appointed 13 June 2022)
Leila Hagman - Media and Communications Assistant (appointed 5 October 2022)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Public Benefit Statement

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the charity's activities, the trustees referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The legal procedures following deaths that require an inquest are unfamiliar to most people and we use our unique overview of how the whole system works from the perspective of bereaved people to advise, support and empower families so they are in a better position to cope with the stresses related to such a daunting, often protracted and intrusive legal process. We can speak with authority because of the direct link between our casework and our policy interventions. Informed by issues arising out of the casework, the organisation continues to seek to influence policy makers to effect changes to the investigation and inquest process, and when necessary the organisation will collaborate with relevant partner organisations to achieve these objectives.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Our Organisation: An Overview

Over the last year, INQUEST has continued to deliver advice and support to hundreds of bereaved families in England and Wales through our casework service. Soaring inflation and growing economic uncertainty, alongside increasingly punitive legislation, have exacerbated some of the issues we see regularly in our work, and have underscored further the importance of what we do.

Our relationship with the INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG) allows us to find expert representation to families to provide specialist and joined up support, and we are reminded daily of its importance. We are always so appreciative of the support they provide our families and our organisation.

The financial year 2022/23 was a particularly challenging year for INQUEST in terms of funding. This is due to the impact of austerity and economic pressures, in a funding landscape witnessing an increasing demand on decreasing funding pool. We are forever grateful to our funders for rallying around and providing us with additional support at this difficult time. A particular thanks goes to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the AB Charitable Trust, the Bromley Trust, the Evan Cornish Foundation and the Three Guineas Trust.

Our family participation work has also grown and developed, spearheaded by the Family Reference Group, with numerous positive events and projects providing different types of support which go beyond families' legal cases.

We continue to campaign around legal aid for inquests and for access to justice for bereaved families, including through our latest focused campaign calling for a National Oversight Mechanism Our influencing work over the period has also focused on challenging institutional racism in policing and prison services, with the publication of new research and campaigning around individual and collective cases.

The end of COVID-19 restrictions allowed us to return to in-person events, which have received positive feedback, and to travel for our policy and campaigning work nationally and internationally.

Further, the last year has seen INQUEST explore new ways of working with our archive opening at Bishopsgate Institute, a podcast in the making, and an oral history project. We proudly celebrated and learned about INQUEST's past through the numerous public-facing events and activities which formed the Lottery Heritage funded 40 Years of INQUEST Project.

Our Team

Over the past year, INQUEST has worked on improving its governance to further our commitment to the organisation being family-led at every level. As a result of this focus, INQUEST has welcomed three new family members, Marcia Rigg, Dr Rebecca Montacute and Doug Cave, as Trustees of the Board at the end of May 2023. All three families first came in contact with INQUEST when using our casework service and have remained involved in our work, one way or another, ever since. This long-planned presence of family members on our Board is the culmination of the internal family engagement work we started over the last 4 years.

Marcia Rigg spearheads the United Families and Friends Campaign (UFFC), a coalition of families whose loved ones have died following a state related death across the UK in police custody, prisons and mental health units. She has been working with INQUEST since the death of her brother Sean in 2008 and is a member of our Family Reference Group. Marcia is one of the 100 Great Black Britons 2020.

Rebecca Montacute's mother, Julie, died in 2018 following several failures in the mental health care she received. Rebecca was supported by INQUEST throughout her efforts to uncover those failures. Rebecca is the Head of Research and Policy at the Sutton Trust, an education charity.

Douglas Cave is a co-founder of The LEARN Network, has qualifications in mental health first aid and suicide prevention, and is an ASIST Trainer. He has huge experience in operations, finance and project planning. He is also a member of the INQUEST Family Reference Group.

Our Family Participation Coordinator has also recruited new families to INQUEST's Family Reference Group, which shapes the participation work of the organisation and informs our work more broadly.

INQUEST has always been committed to putting those with lived experience at the centre of our work, and are pleased to deepen this through further embedding family voices in governance and continuing to build our Family Reference Group.

In June 2022, Naomi Oppenheim joined the organisation to coordinate the project marking 40 years of INQUEST. Naomi is a historian of modern Britain and the Caribbean with five years' experience in the cultural heritage sector. Naomi has worked on several community history projects and has brought her expertise to our project, working alongside Bishopsgate Institute.

Our Families and Our Casework Service

During the last year, INQUEST was able to return to hold in-person events whilst keeping our provision of regular online family and public events. Families have reported they have greatly benefited from being able to meet INQUEST staff in person, create bonds and exchange contacts with other families. Similarly, families based outside of London have been able to engage regularly with our work via our online events and we will be keeping a hybrid model of engagement moving forward.
Our casework team continues to monitor trends and themes arising from deaths and related investigations, inquiries and inquests in detention in England and Wales. Our work is responsive to the issues arising, which feeds into planned and ad hoc policy, media and campaigns work.
From January 2023 to April 2023, our Casework service was closed to new enquiries as we regrettably found ourselves unable to cope with the increase in demand and the high number of existing cases.

During this time families with new cases were redirected to our INQUEST Lawyers Group and to online resources to ensure none were left without an option for advice and assistance. The closure period enabled the team to close old cases and review existing ones, including reaching out to families who faced an inquest hearing in this time.

We also reviewed the remit of the casework service to focus on cases where the circumstances of a death were:

- in prison (including Young Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres),
- in police custody or following recent police contact,
- in immigration detention,
- in mental health facilities as either a voluntary or detained inpatient.

Additionally, we now assist in cases involving:

- Deaths of children (18 years or under) following recent contact with community mental health services;
- Deaths of individuals with a Learning Disability and/or autism in care settings.

As always, our Casework Assistants kept providing resources and support to non-remit cases, including advice and information and access to our family handbook, toolkit and factsheets.

To address the lower capacity of our team, we welcomed a new Caseworker, Jordan Ferdinand-Sargeant, to our team in March 2023. Prior to this, she trained and practiced as a solicitor at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and in the Public Law and Human Rights team at Simpson Millar LLP specialising in public law challenges against state bodies.
During the year April 2022 to March 2023, our casework team has worked on **901** cases, of which **407** (45%) were new cases. These cases involve police, prison, and mental health services and other care services for people with learning disabilities and autism.
Overall:

- **319** (35%) involved mental health and healthcare services
- **224** (25%) involved prisons
- **139** (15%) involved police

19% involved deaths of people from Black, Asian and other racialised groups. INQUEST pays particular attention to discrimination and how it manifests both in custody-related deaths and in the following investigation and inquest processes.
Over the period, we worked directly with bereaved families on over 83 press releases, with hundreds of pieces of news coverage as a result. These supported family campaigns, told families' stories, and contributed to INQUEST's larger strategic aims.

Our Campaign for Legal Aid for INQUEST saw an important victory, with the Non means tested Legal Help for automatic Article 2 cases came into force 4 September 2023. This marks significant progress in this campaign. However, there is much more to be done to meet our longstanding demands.

Case Study: J had Down syndrome. He died from choking whilst in his care home in England. His mother was struggling emotionally after the sudden and traumatic loss of her son. She contacted INQUEST for help with the legal aspect of her son's case.

INQUEST arranged for her to speak 1-on-1 with our Family Participation Officer to learn more about our family support work. As a result, J's mother is now regularly attending online connection cafes and is in touch with another bereaved mother whose child also had learning disabilities. They are able to speak about their shared experience and provide each other with support. Part of the strength of our family work is precisely allowing families to build connections, facilitated by INQUEST, with each other.

Additionally, the Legal Aid Agency refused funding for a barrister to represent the family for the inquest. Our casework team collected cases of all our learning-disabled people's deaths where there was funding for a barrister (about 6 cases) to bolster the lawyers request for reconsideration.

We are glad of the holistic support INQUEST provides, with an eye to the social and legal consequences of the bereavement.

Case study: In November 2022, an inquest concluded into the death of L, 29, who died whilst on remand at HMP Belmarsh. The jury found that numerous instances of ill treatment of a discriminatory and dismissive nature, along with an insufficient willingness to address L's concerns negatively impacted on his mental health and contributed to his death. L's is one of 15 deaths of men in HMP Belmarsh since 2015, five of which were reported to be self-inflicted.

The Caseworker first spoke to the family the day after L. died in Jan 2020. This was a difficult conversation, both due to the understandable emotional distress of the family and due to the limited information available to INQUEST at the time. The caseworker reassured them about the process and what to expect, took a note of what they'd been told. The Caseworker further liaised externally with the founder of the organisation Jengba (the charity advocating for people sentenced on joint enterprise), who had referred the family to us, as well as to a lawyer with a particular expertise in prison.

The Caseworker further advised the family on the postmortem which was taking place and which INQUEST thought to be particularly important, due to conflicting initial accounts of how L died (unfortunately a fairly common scenario in the work we do). L's family was unsure on how and whether to approach the press, and INQUEST's Caseworker advised the pros and cons of their situation. The family did ultimately speak to the press and developed a longstanding campaign for L. L's family became very involved in our Family Participation activities such as the Connection Cafes and has made links with other families.

The Caseworker attended numerous meetings with family and lawyers. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Caseworker kept regular contact with the family, seeking updates and checking in right up to the inquest in 2022. His sister has participated in various events where she can give voice to Liridon and be involved in our work for change especially around prisons. His sister has attended our Family Forum, our Voicing Loss Family Listening days and has spoken to professionals in the criminal justice system at the CPS deaths in custody symposium.

Feedback

In the period between April 2022 to March 2023, we received the following feedback to our online survey:

100% of respondent families assessed the casework service provided by INQUEST as **'very good'**.

62% of families said they felt **more able to tackle challenges** ahead because of our casework support. 28% did not answer.

80% of families **felt less isolated**, having accessed the casework and family participation services offered by INQUEST, and 83% felt more connected to other families.

Selected quotes from email communication from families:

"*INQUEST is such an amazing charity. I have had so much support. The case worker who rang me understood and showed compassion and empathy. She also put me in contact with a lawyer. I very much appreciate INQUEST and the valuable work they do and continued help I'm having on my journey. Thank you!*" November 2022, Feedback via email

"*I can't thank INQUEST enough. I was lucky to find this amazing charity at a time where all other avenues I pursued to begin the process of seeking truth and accountability were being closed on me. I felt completely overwhelmed and like I was not going to ever get my loved one's story heard, never get answers, never get justice. Then one phone call to INQUEST changed that.*" Family feedback, September 2022

"I met some lovely people and it opened my eyes to the huge loss of youngsters, absolutely heartbreaking. At least I had [son's name] for [...] years, and am grateful for that.

I IN PLACE OF THE LOSS AND DEEP SORROW

N NO HOPE, NO PLANS FOR TOMORROWS

Q QUESTIONS AND HURT ARE ALL WE SHOUT

U UNDER YOUR CARE, YOU HEAR US OUT

E ENCOURAGE AND COMFORT EVERY DAY

S SUPPORT AROUND US, STRENGTH ALL THE WAY

T TRUTH IS THE GOAL, OUR ONLY AIM, INQUEST IS WITH US"

Family feedback, February 2023

Family Participation and the Family Reference Group

INQUEST has built its understanding of issues affecting bereaved families and their needs through the involvement of families themselves. This partly happens though our Family Reference Group (FRG), made up of families who have received, or continue to receive, support from INQUEST.
The FRG advises us and feeds into our service planning and strategy. Families tell us they want to channel their energies into changing policy and practice, so no other family has to go through what they are going through. Our policy work relies heavily on this insight.
This year had seen a growth in our Family Engagement work as well in the more social and community building aspects of our work.

The pillars of family participation at INQUEST are:

- Improving family experience of processes
- Family involvement with INQUEST
- Building connection and solidarity
- Promoting change to the wider system

We offer five different regularly scheduled events, four monthly sessions – two Connection Cafés, Untangling Loss, a series of workshop for families on grieving, and 40 Years of INQUEST, our heritage project celebrating the last forty years of our organisation, as well as Consultation Cafes – with a different range of online events available for families to engage in. We are seeing how different people response to different types of sessions and adjust our work accordingly.

Some families are more orientated towards attending policy, research events, others like building connection and solidarity, others are finding ways to understand their experience of grief, and the 40 Year Project has helped us bring more creative aspects such as writing, photography and textile making to the fore.

Working with a wide range of families, both in terms of the circumstances of their bereavement as well as around socio-economic background, we are aware of the importance of providing an equally wide range of activities and types of events (including, thanks to the 40th Anniversary project, new creative activities).

Between April 2022 and March 2023, INQUEST ran:

1 in-person Family Forum,
23 virtual Connection Cafes,
10 Connection Cafes and Policy Work meetings with families,
3 Family Reference Group meetings,
3 Forty years of INQUEST workshops
2 SoulsINQUEST project events (more details below).
1 Family Jukebox
For a total of **43** family events, almost one per week.

The Connection Cafes, which we ran regularly online, are continuing to grow. Amongst attendees, there is a feeling of continuity and community. These events continue to be a mix of people at different stages of both their bereavement and the inquest process. Some have been joining very early in their grief journey and some are joining for the first time 5 years on but are now struggling with parts of the inquest process, particularly with delays.

We have incorporated the Connection Cafes into the 'Buddy Up' system and encourage people who attend to request to be put in contact with other families they resonate with, and if they agree we make an introduction. So far this peer support network has gone well, and families gain mutual support through more direct connections. This has helped formalise more informal direct peer support networks that have grown through INQUEST events over the years, and more work is being done to build this 'buddy up' system.

As of March 2023, there are 228 members in the INQUEST Family Facebook Group (compared to the 152 in March 2022), which continues to grow and be a place for building solidarity and connection, as well as advertising family events.

We held our second Family Jukebox in December 2022. 18 song requests were included, and the event was attended by more than 24 family members.

Family Forum and Family in Person Events

INQUEST held **a Family Consultation Day** in May 2022 involving 11 families, with 14 people in attendance. The structure of the day saw feedback from families outlining the processes and systems that frame investigations and inquests, with a particular emphasis on family recommendations for improving current practice on investigations and inquests into deaths of people with mental ill health, learning disabilities and autism. INQUEST, alongside Chris Tully, produced a report arising from the day, which has been published and used to feed into our policy and campaigns work, as well as casework feedback to lawyers.
Key concerns raised by families include:

- A lack of candour, transparency and accountability
- Inadequate levels of communication between families and the bodies responsible for care
- Many felt they were immediately placed on the backfoot during investigations into their loved ones' death.

Bereaved people engage in the post death processes with the hope that they can access truth, but also that their participation can inform change to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances. However, the research found that a litany of issues left unchanged following these processes is adding to the distress families feel, and risks making them disengage from investigatory processes entirely or being retraumatised by the process.
INQUEST held a **Voicing Loss Family Day** in November 2022, attended by 12 families. Voicing Loss is part of a research project is carried out by the Institute for Crime & Justice Research Policy at Birkbeck, University of London, in partnership with the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath.

INQUEST held our **first Family Forum with a focus on mental health cases** in December 2022. This was well attended, with 36 participants coming together to share their experiences and express solidarity with each other. The second part of the day involved a workshop focusing on our 40 Years of INQUEST Project and highlighting some of the ways families could get involved.

Policy, Influencing and Campaigning

"The only thing that makes sense of the loss of your loved one is that maybe lessons will be learned and the same thing will not happen to someone else."
- Andy McCulloch, father of Colette McCulloch

All our policy work and campaigns are informed by the experiences of families we work with and our overview of the legal processes and challenges that follow a state-related death. INQUEST sees policy work as the logical continuation of the individual cases we see as well as a way to support families in their struggle for change on a local or national level.

Over the last year, the INQUEST Policy Team completed numerous formal briefings, written submissions and responses, including 10 which have been published.

Our work over the period has had a focus on challenging structural racism and campaigning for a National Oversight Mechanism, which would address the lack of learning from recommendations arising from post-death investigations/inquests.

The role of the National Oversight Mechanism would be to:

-Collate recommendations and public bodies' responses in a new database
-Analyse responses from public bodies & issue reports
-Follow up on progress, escalate concerns & share thematic findings.

INQUEST launched our campaign for a National Oversight Mechanism in June 2023. Our #NoMoreDeaths Campaign is our call for the establishment of a new, independent public body tasked with the duty to collate, analyse and follow-up on recommendations arising from state-related deaths. Our online petition already counts thousands of signatures, and we are seeing the campaign, alongside fellow travellers like Hillsborough Law Now Campaign, grow from strength to strength.

As part of our advocacy on this campaign, we are keen to engage more with the UK National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), who works to ensure UK monitoring bodies discharge their duties under the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, to examine how we can work with the NPM's members and the OPCAT framework to promote the need for a National Oversight Mechanism.

In addition, there has been interest from the UN's Human Rights Council on our campaign and we would be interested to explore with them how it links to international law in more detail.

Moving forward, we are hoping to look further into alternatives to policing in cases of mental health crisis, whilst also highlighting the current failings in UK mental health services
Our work this year has also had a focus on international links. The Working Group on the Experience of People of African Descent visited the UK for an official country visit in January 2023. INQUEST submitted a briefing on to the Working Group in November 2022 outlining our key concerns on the treatment of Black people in state custody. Our Policy Team then worked on a supplementary briefing to the Working Group in January 2023 to provide an update on key cases and data on the use of force across detention settings. The team organised a meeting between the Working Group, Deborah Coles, our Executive Director, and bereaved families and a separate meeting with lawyers.

We have also travelled to Malta, to bring our knowledge and expertise to The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation. We are proud to have been invited and to have been trusted with our expertise to support a sister organisation abroad.

Seni's Law came into force in March 2022. Our Executive Director and Policy Team members attended the launch in Parliament in April 2022.

Examining Deaths in Prison 2015 – 2022: Challenging racism and discrimination: In October 2022, INQUEST published our report "Examining Deaths in Prison 2015 – 2022: Challenging racism and discrimination", having updated our data with recent FOI requests from MOJ. Through an analysis of never before published data on ethnicity and deaths in prison, and an examination of the relevant inquests, the report evidences the role of institutional racism in the prison estate.

"I can't breathe': Race, death and British Policing': In February, 2023 INQUEST published our report "I can't breathe': Race, death and British Policing' in which INQUEST investigated the processes, procedures and evidence base of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and the coronial system to examine how accountability for racism is delivered. Data never before made public shows that Black people are seven times more likely to die than white people following the use of restraint by police. We received press coverage nationally, including in The Guardian, the BBC and the Independent.

There has also been extensive media work on individual cases involving the deaths of Black men at the hands of police over the period, including with national and international media coverage featuring the voices of the families of Oladeji Omishore and Chris Kaba.

Mental health: Our policy and campaigning work over the period has focused on individual cases, with some focused media work highlighting the broader issues.

For example, bereaved families, alongside INQUEST and journalists, have been challenging the ongoing failures of private mental health hospitals. Recent investigations by The Times into The Priory Group, and by The Guardian into a range of private providers, have highlighted the extent of the issues with these companies. They are putting profit over patient safety in their treatment of both NHS and private patients, with fatal consequences.

In collaboration with INQUEST, The Guardian revealed that private providers The Priory, Cygnet and Elysium have been criticised by coroner's at least 37 times for mistakes and lapses in care that were involved in the deaths of patients, including several children.[1]

Our work challenging widespread failures in Essex Mental Health Services also continued. On 28 June 2023, it was announced that the Essex Mental Health Independent Inquiry will be granted statutory status under the Inquiries Act 2005. On 4 September 2023, it was announced that the Chair to the Inquiry will be Baroness Kate Lampard CBE. This is a result of the campaigning and lobbying work INQUEST has done alongside the family of Melanie Leahy, the mother of Matthew Leahy who died whilst sectioned at the Linden Centre in Essex. Melanie had been campaigning for years for a statutory public inquiry, which she has now finally secured.

Grenfell Project

The 14th of June 2022 marked the 5th Anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Disaster.

[1] For more information see INQUEST Newsletter, September 2022, available: https://www.inquest.org.uk/newsletter-summer-2022

As always, we have highlighted in the press the structural and preventable issues that have lead to the disaster. We continue to campaign for long-lasting meaningful change, to honour the lives taken and to prevent future deaths. Further, we contributed to briefing on the Grenfell debate which was sent to the press and to MPs.

2022 also saw the end of the hearings of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Inquiry. Ahead of this, we held an informal Consultation Café over Zoom for families to raise their concerns and to speak to our Grenfell Project Coordinator. The format was a drop-in session to discuss any issues to be fed back to lawyers ahead of Module 4 (aftermath) and Module 8 (inquest).

INQUEST's statement to the inquiry for Module 4 was submitted and read into evidence. The statement covers INQUEST's involvement in immediate aftermath of the fire, mainly focused on the 7 days after the fire. We included reflections from the Grenfell community and excerpts from the INQUEST Family Consultation Day report, and also provided information on what best practice should be in the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, we highlighted that institutional racism, discrimination, and inequality played a part in the government's inadequate response to the bereaved, survivors and residents (BSRs) of Grenfell Tower and the surrounding areas.

INQUEST also made submissions to the inquiry which highlighted the history of recommendations not being implemented following inquiries generally and in phase one of the inquiry, the importance of a national oversight mechanism and achieving change from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Our Grenfell Project Coordinator liaised with families, lawyers, community groups and other stakeholders to ensure the voice of families are represented and that INQUEST policy campaigns are heard.

Over the last year, INQUEST has supported Claddag's campaign work, particularly regarding recommendations about Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs). We know the issues that lead to the Grenfell Tower disaster are, unfortunately, not rare and we therefore ensure our policy priorities reflect this.

Scotland

There is currently no equivalent organisation to INQUEST in Scotland. From initial scoping work and advising on cases involving the police and prison service, INQUEST initially found that the issues surrounding deaths were not as firmly on the policy or political agenda in Scotland as in other parts of the UK.
In recent years numerous organisations and individuals, including Scottish National Preventive Mechanism members, NGOs, bereaved people, independent reviews, and parliamentarians, have raised concerns about these issues:

-lack of advice and support to bereaved people,
- inequality of arms with no legal aid for family representation,
- a lack of public reporting on deaths in places of detention,
- limited data on use of force and restraint,
- poor quality of investigations

All deaths in custody are subject to an investigation directed by the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) followed by a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI). The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research found that, in over 90% of all FAIs, no finding of a reasonable precaution is made, no finding of defect is made, and no recommendations are made to improve practice or prevent death.

There is a question on whether the Scottish systems of investigation on deaths in places of detention are compliant with Article 2 of the Human Rights Act (the right to life), particularly in terms of obligations around effective, prompt, public and independent investigations in which bereaved families can meaningfully participate. This is being looked into further by Deborah Coles, our Executive Director, and Scottish lawyers.

Some of the higher-level influencing work was delayed due to the changes in appointments within the SNP. Nonetheless, INQUEST has continued working with a small number of bereaved families and their legal teams through ongoing cases. These include the families of Sheku Bayoh and Katie Allan, Robert Chebe, Alan Marshall.
In November 2019, Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland and now First Minister, announced an independent public inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh. This is the first Scottish public inquiry of this kind into a death in police custody. We were instrumental in arguing, that race should be within the terms of reference of the public inquiry, something very unusual.

Deborah met with the Inquiry team and shared her expertise on custodial deaths. The Inquiry was subject to delay with the impact of the pandemic and finally commenced on Tuesday the 10th of May 2022. Deborah has now provided a provisional witness statement to the Inquiry and continues to work with the Inquiry Team. She is also organising a series of other meetings, particularly with the Crown Office, to discuss the Fatal Accident Inquiry process and the treatment of bereaved families.

This speaks to the need for reforming the Fatal Accident Inquiry, and we hope that the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry will provide a blueprint for this.

Unlocking the Truth for 40 Years

Over the last year, we have launched a unique heritage project to mark INQUEST's 40-year history: ***Unlocking the Truth for 40 Years*** is about commemorating and reflecting upon the ground-breaking work of families and INQUEST holding the state to account over the past four decades The project uses the tools of oral history, archiving, fabrics, quilt, and photography, in order to tell the story not only of our organisation and the many families, campaigns and organisation we have come in contact with since 1981. This unique heritage project allowed us to explore new ways of working together and with families and has received positive feedback from those who participated.

The project saw the creation of an INQUEST archive in Bishopsgate Institute. The archive was opened in March 2023 with an event for families only and one for the public, including a talk from Marcia Rigg and INQUEST founder and campaigner Celia Stubbs, partner of Blair Peach.

Bishopsgate Institute, a fitting home for our history, welcomes researchers and anyone who is interested in learning more to look through the archives, however, as a reference library only, books and other materials may only be consulted on site. On top of the physical archive, providing public access to 40+ years of documentation around state-related deaths, family campaigns, and crucial political and legal changes, we are currently working on expanding it by creating a digital archive. We want our records to be accessible to as many people as possible.
To select and curate the archives, we have worked with volunteers from Westminster University and have built a relationship with the university which we look forward to progressing in the up-coming years.

To mark 40 years of the family voice and campaigning, families have been creating a 40th commemorative banner. They have been invited to contribute a square to the quilt-style banner that will depict four decades of loss, grief and their fight for change. This banner will be part of an exhibition in 2024 and will be taken to protests, such as the United Families and Friends Campaign annual rally.

As part of our project, we first exhibited SoulsINQUEST in May 2023 at 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning in Brixton. SoulsINQUEST uses photography and writing as a lens onto state violence, death, grief and resistance. The project is a collaboration between 17 bereaved families, who have accessed the INQUEST casework service and the INQUEST team and photographer Sarah Booker.

Sarah has many years of experience delivering hard hitting awareness raising photography projects, including documenting the struggle for justice of Hillsborough families and the lives, stories and struggles of refugees in Greece. The exhibition is an embodiment of family resistance, of refusing to be silenced, misrepresented, or forgotten. Creative collaboration is a powerful vehicle for families to take control of their own stories and challenge harmful and misleading public assertions made about their loved ones.

The act of displaying these photographs and their accompanying free form narratives, is artistically political. Individually, they represent the most intimate and private reflections on grief; collectively, they are monuments to the nearly 10,000 families that INQUEST has worked with during its 40- year history.
It features narrative writing, family portraits and a 'concept photograph' that encapsulate the soul and essence of a loved one, showing the personal and human side of the impact of state violence. The exhibition displays ephemera from INQUEST's archive, including posters, pamphlets and imagery from protests, rallies, campaigns.

The project uses art to highlight and disseminate the consequences of state violence, the history of past and current social movements focused on state injustice, from Blair Peach to Seni Lewis, as well as foster solidarity between communities.

We have had a fantastic response with over a hundred people attending the launch. Since then, the exhibition has had glowing coverage in the Guardian, ITV London, The Inside Times and Each Other. As part of the project, we have also organised a discussion on raising the collective voice of bereaved families, and what is needed to engage communities to walk alongside them, titled "Justice & Beyond: Resistance, Community, Change" (attended by over 50 people). Speakers included Lee Lawrence (family campaigner & son of Cherry Groce) and Jefferson Bosela (family campaigner & cousin of Chris Kaba). We now plan to tour this exhibition across the UK.

Anna Susianta, SoulsINQUEST participant and member of the INQUEST Family Reference group who started the project, said:

"*SoulsINQUEST gave us the opportunity to share our stories in a new way, as a collective. We focused on the love our lost ones spread in their shortened lives, to counteract the continuing impact of pain in our own lives. So we paused in our fight for justice and reminded ourselves of our dear family member no longer here. People should come to see SoulsINQUEST to learn about how our loved ones died, and to see what strength and love we have gained as a group from making and sharing visual memories in tribute to those loved ones. It has been a cathartic experience to describe the character of our loved ones to each other, in talking and using photography, as well as the manner of their death using writing. I have felt energised and found solace through this creative process. Bereavement isolates you and can destroy your life, but SoulsINQUEST brought us together in solidarity and power for our loved ones.*"

Moving into the new year, we are looking to expand our project to have a broader remit, collating the experiences of campaigners and families around the themes of commemoration.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1046650

Company registration number: 03054853

Registered and principal office: Unit T3
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees
The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Diane Newton (Chair)
Daniel Machover
Geraldine Isherwood
Kevin Blowe
Ruth Bundey
Jennifer Nadel (terminated on 23 May 2023)
Joe Sim
Stephen Tombs
Rajiv Menon
Sigrun Asa Danielsson (terminated on 01 September 2023)
Pete Weatherby
Patrick Williams (appointed 10 November 2021)
Douglas Stephen Cave (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Marcia Patricia Rigg- Samuel (appointed on 23 May 2023)

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2022 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary: Arnaud Vervoitte

Chief Executive Officer: Deborah Coles

Statutory Auditors: Barcant Beardon Limited
Chartered Accountants
8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

Banker: Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham B1 2HB

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

.....

Daniel Machover
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19/12/23

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

20th December 2023

Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	611,996	515,593	1,127,589	826,963
Charitable activities	4		8,250	8,250	14,920
Other trading activities	5		11,812	11,812	-
Investments	6		2,957	2,957	147
Total income and endowments		611,996	538,612	1,150,608	842,030
Expenditure on:					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	7		81,524	81,524	57,859
Charitable activities	8	647,496	389,315	1,036,811	935,851
Total expenditure		647,496	470,839	1,118,335	993,710
Net income/(expenditure)		(35,500)	67,773	32,273	(151,680)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(35,500)	67,773	32,273	(151,680)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		45,900	129,835	175,735	327,415
Total funds carried forward		10,400	197,608	208,008	175,735

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	13,042	12,047
Current assets			
Debtors	16	62,207	121,570
Cash at bank and in hand		443,141	182,624
		505,348	304,194
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(310,382)	(140,506)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		194,966	163,688
Net assets		208,008	175,735
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	10,400	45,900
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	19	197,608	129,835
Total charity funds		208,008	175,735

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Geraldine Isherwood
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 18.12.23

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.
Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	265,299	(379,996)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest income		2,957	147
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,739)	(13,473)
Net cash used in investing activities		(4,782)	(13,326)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		260,517	(393,322)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		182,624	575,946
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		443,141	182,624
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in bank and in hand		443,141	182,624
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22.1	443,141	182,624

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.0 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Gifts	105,081	69,042
Gift Aid tax reclaims	19,206	7,966
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	35,000	20,000
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	40,000	20,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	94,986	55,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	162,000	95,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted)	97,785	82,388
Grants from other sources (Restricted and Unrestricted)	524,211	448,897
Memberships	49,320	28,670
	1,127,589	826,963

3.1 Income from donations and legacies was £1,127,589 (2022 - £826,963) of which £611,996 (2022 - £531,285) was attributable to restricted and £515,593 (2022 - £295,678) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4.0	***Income from Charitable Activities***	2023 £	2022 £
	Income from consulting and training services	3,945	7,275
	Income from publications	4,305	3,856
	Income from grants	-	3,789
		8,250	14,920

4.1 Income from charitable activities was £8,250 (2022 - £14,920) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £8,250 (2022 - £14,920) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5.0	***Income from Other Trading Activities***	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
	Fundraising events	11,812	-

6.0	***Income from Investments***	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
	Interest – bank	2,957	147

7.0	***Expenditure on Raising Funds***	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
	Staff costs	77,482	57,438
	Other fundraising costs	4,042	421
		81,524	57,859

8.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

8.1 Charitable Activities 2023

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	383,824	-	383,824
Casework and other family support	512,754	120,937	633,691
Publications	19,296	-	19,296
	915,874	120,937	1,036,811

Charitable Activities 2022

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	218,185	-	218,185
Casework and other family support	608,603	108,233	716,836
Publications	830	-	830
	827,618	108,233	935,851

8.2 Of the £1,036,811 expenditures in 2023 (2022 - £935,851), £647,496 (2022 - £485,385) was attributable to restricted funds and £389,315 (2022 - £450,466) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support	Governance costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Premises	58,535	-	58,535	61,910
Office running	17,006	-	17,006	17,896
Information technology	24,726	-	24,726	16,806
Legal and professional	3,041	-	3,041	1,861
Bookkeeping	1,189	-	1,189	2,839
Depreciation	6,744	-	6,744	6,921
Audit/Independent examination	-	9,600	9,600	9,400
Trustees' expenses	-	96	96	80
	111,241	9,696	120,937	117,713

10.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	9,600	9,400
Depreciation	6,744	6,921
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	52,800	52,800

11.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2022 – none). Travel costs amounting to £116 (2022 - £80) were reimbursed to two (2022 – one) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £nil (2022 - £nil). No (2022 – No) trustee(s) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2022 - £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2022 – Nil).

12.0 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	701,757	672,475
Social security costs	72,301	65,498
Pensions	55,763	49,518
	829,821	787,491

12.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	2	2

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £11,762 (2022 - £11,529).

12.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £216,079 (2022 - £253,161). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Casework.

13.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 18.72 staff (2022: 19.75 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Direct charitable work	17.7	16.7

14.0 Taxation

Inquest Charitable Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	37,364
Additions	7,739
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2023	45,103
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2022	25,317
Charge for the year	6,744
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2023	32,061
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2023	13,042
At 1 April 2022	12,047

16.0 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	9,535	17,970
Other debtors	-	223
Grants receivables and accrued income	44,239	94,788
Prepayments	8,433	8,589
	62,207	121,570

17.0 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,262	15,612
Taxation and social security	23,704	18,069
Accruals	76,658	38,426
Other creditors	9,936	14,276
Deferred income (see note 18)	197,822	54,123
	310,382	140,506

17.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £8,044 (2022 - £7,185).

18.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total
	£
Balance as at 1 April 2022	54,123
Amount released in the year	(54,123)
Amount deferred in the year	197,822
Balance as at 31 March 2023	197,822

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	129,835	538,612	(470,839)	-	197,608

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	327,415	310,745	(508,325)	-	129,835

Name of unrestricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
General funds	The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

19.1 ***Restricted Funds – Current year***

	Balance 1 Apr 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2023 £
Baring Foundation	-	35,333	(35,333)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	4,900	24,500	(27,000)	-	2,400
National Lottery Community Fund	41,000	143,225	(184,225)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	64,627	(64,627)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	57,400	(57,400)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	50,000	(42,000)	-	8,000
Oak Foundation	-	97,786	(97,786)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	4,125	(4,125)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	(70,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	52,500	(52,500)	-	-
	45,900	611,996	(647,496)	-	10,400

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
Baring Foundation	change work around addressing structural racism.
Barrow Cadbury Trust	Policy & influencing, family participation
National Lottery Community Fund	England & Wales casework, family participation
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	London casework
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garfield Weston Foundation	Casework related to mental health, learning disabilities and autism
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
National Lottery Heritage Fund	40 Years of INQUEST- Recording 4 decades of the family voice towards systemic change project
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
Open Society Foundation	Covid specific work
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Trust for London	Casework, policy and campaign work in London

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2022 £
Baring Foundation	-	8,334	(8,334)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	25,000	(20,100)	-	4,900
National Lottery Community Fund	-	155,290	(114,290)	-	41,000
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	56,800	(56,800)	-	-
Garden Court	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	29,450	(29,450)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	82,389	(82,389)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	49,852	(49,852)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-

Trust for London	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,170	(10,170)	-	-
	-	531,285	(485,385)	-	45,900

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
Baring Foundation	change work around addressing structural racism.
Barrow Cadbury Trust	Policy & influencing, family participation
National Lottery Community Fund	England & Wales casework, family participation
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	London casework
Garden Court	Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
Open Society Foundation	Covid specific work
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Trust for London	Casework, policy and campaign work in London

20.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	13,042	13,042
Cash at bank and in hand	10,400	432,741	443,141
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(248,175)	(248,175)
	10,400	197,608	208,008

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	12,047	12,047
Cash at bank and in hand	45,900	136,724	182,624
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(18,936)	(18,936)
	45,900	129,835	175,735

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1046650

Accounts

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

INQUEST Charitable Trust works to end deaths caused by unsafe systems of detention and care, use of force and by institutional failure. Through our work we also seek to reduce the number of custodial deaths and improve the treatment and care of those within the institutions where the deaths occur. INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide specialist advice and support to bereaved families following a sudden or unexpected death in systems of custody, care and detention. Founded in 1981, our work spans across prisons, police, and mental health and learning disability institutions and multi-agency failings. The evidence gathered from our specialist casework with thousands of bereaved people over 35 years informs our policy, lobbying and campaigns. This way of working is crucial to families, not only in holding the state to account for the individual deaths, but also in changing policy and practice. Our unique overview makes INQUEST an authority on post-death investigations and inquests, allowing us to drive the campaign to improve the inquest procedures for all bereaved people, improve mechanisms for holding government, state and corporate bodies to account and campaign for systemic change.

INQUEST Charitable Trust was established in 1995 to complement and assist the work of its sister organisation INQUEST, founded in 1981. In March 2004, the two organisations merged into a single charitable organisation known publicly as INQUEST. As set out in its articles of association, INQUEST aims:

- To advance education of the public by, in particular, research into and publication and dissemination of information concerning sudden or unexplained deaths or deaths which are or may be subject to a Coroner's inquest.
- To provide relief of distress amongst the bereaved in particular by provision of information, advice, counselling and support.
- To undertake any other charitable objective.

Core Activities

1. ***Casework***: INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide a specialist, comprehensive advice service on contentious deaths and their investigation to people bereaved by a death in custody/state care or detention and/or raise wider issues of state and corporate accountability. INQUEST pays particular attention to all cases that engage Article 2 of the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights).

INQUESTS's casework priorities are deaths in:

- prisons
- policy custody and following police contact
- mental health and learning disability institutions
- immigration detention
- through multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question

2. ***Policy and parliamentary work:*** this is informed by our casework; data collection and wider research and we work to ensure that the collective experiences of bereaved people underpin this. In addition to leading the policy agenda, we work in partnership with families and empower them to present their cases directly to parliamentarians and policy makers.

3. ***Family Empowerment and Engagement:*** we organise family events and activities to ensure families are supported and able to influence wider systemic change. We hold family forums which bring together families to support each other and share experiences, reducing the isolation and sense of bewilderment families feel. We have a family reference group which is remitted to engage in and help shape INQUEST's work. To enable families to influence policy and practice, we organise Family Listening Days; this is a unique model that INQUEST has developed.

4. ***Inquest Lawyers Group:*** we manage the Inquest Lawyers Group (ILG) which is a national group of lawyers who act in the field of inquest law predominantly for bereaved families and share INQUEST's objectives. The Group is overseen by a steering committee which organises training, seminars and fundraising events and contributes to our policy work.

FUND-RAISING STANDARDS INFORMATION

INQUEST is committed to fundraising best practice. We follow the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice, which includes the General Data Protection Regulations, introduced in 2018. Our staff maintain a considerate and non-intrusive approach to fundraising. We do not undertake cold-calling or employ third parties to raise funds. We enjoy a very positive relationship with all our funders and supporters. No complaint has been received and all fundraising activity is reviewed at our Finance and Personnel Subcommittee, held at least 4 times per year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document
INQUEST Charitable Trust is a registered charity (number 1046650) and a company limited by guarantee (number 03054853).

INQUEST is constituted as a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 10 May 1995 and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 May 1995. In the event of the company being wound up, all trustees present, and 12 months past are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are referred to as the Trustees or Board of Trustees.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction
New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees and are recruited in line with our equal opportunities policy and taking regard of any skills gaps within the existing Board to ensure a collective mix of skills, experiences, knowledge and qualities that will enable INQUEST to effectively meet the needs of its service users. The Board elects Officers from amongst its membership.

Prior to appointment, prospective Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director and at least one other trustee or key member of staff. New Trustees receive information including the Memorandum and Articles, accounts, business plans, Charity Commission and other literature. Introductory briefings with the Executive Director and key staff are provided.

As of 31 March 2022, INQUEST had twelve Trustees. The Trustees bring a broad range of highly relevant skills and knowledge from their backgrounds in human rights, academia, the law and organisational development together with strategic development and governance skills. The Trustees all have a strong commitment to social justice and equality.

Structure
The Board meets between 4 and 6 times a year and is responsible for the good governance of the organisation, employment of its staff and its overall strategic direction in conjunction with the Executive Director. The Board is supported by the Finance and Personnel sub-committee, made up of at least 3 Trustees and meets 4 times a year, in between full Board meetings at which it reports back and make full recommendations to the Board. The Executive Director, with the Operations Director, attend all meetings and other staff attend when required.

Remuneration of Staff
Remuneration is benchmarked with salaries for similar roles in organisations in the charitable sector and salaries are reviewed on an annual basis, and increased, where appropriate, subject to contractual agreements, inflation, performance or changes in scope of work. The remuneration of the Executive Director is approved by the Board and the remuneration of other staff is approved by the Executive Director.

Staff

At 31st March 2022, the total staff number was 21:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework
Caroline Finney, Caseworker (appointed 19 July 2021)
Rebecca Higgins, Caseworker (appointed 25 October 2021)
Yohanah Rodney, Caseworker
Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker (appointed 25 October 2021)
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Jennifer Edmunds, Administration Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Daisy Daniell, Casework Assistant (appointed 24 January 2022)
Luana D'Arco Yakubu, Casework Assistant (appointed 12 January 2022)
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer
Raekha Prasad, Research and Policy Officer
Rosanna Ellul, Senior Policy & Parliamentary Officer (appointed 10 May 2021)
Jemmar Samuels, Media & Communications Intern (appointed 4 October 2021)
Mura Peliti - Operations & Development Officer (appointed 4 January 2022)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Public Benefit Statement

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the charity's activities, the trustees referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The legal procedures following deaths that require an inquest are unfamiliar to most people and we use our unique overview of how the whole system works from the perspective of bereaved people to advise, support and empower families so they are in a better position to cope with the stresses related to such a daunting, often protracted and intrusive legal process. We can speak with authority because of the direct link between our casework and our policy interventions. Informed by issues arising out of the casework, the organisation continues to seek to influence policy makers to effect changes to the investigation and inquest process, and when necessary the organisation will collaborate with relevant partner organisations to achieve these objectives.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

OUR ORGANISATION

INQUEST is proud to have continued to deliver high quality support to bereaved families in England and Wales. The pandemic presented an exceptionally complex set of circumstances for INQUEST and for the families we support: many inquests were adjourned or delayed, creating a huge backlog; further, other restrictions that were imposed, such as those limiting or delaying funerals and gatherings, carried with them a huge emotional impact.

The online spaces and regular online events created in the beginning of the pandemic continue to be an important resource for families and have been implemented as a long-term offer for the families we work with.

We rolled out a hybrid model of working in March 2022, requiring staff to attend the office for half of their working time and started to bring back in-person events for families. The pandemic reinforced our resolve to tackle the impact that traumatic bereavement has on our staff and to build better management strategies to best support them. We improved our provision of support for staff by doubling budgets foor clinical supervision and training. We are proud of our staff and of the huge amount of work they successfully undertook over the last few years under particularly strained circumstances.

OUR FAMILIES

Many inquests were initially adjourned during the period from March 2020 onwards, which created a considerable backlog in 2021 and early 2022. As a result, families experienced severe disruption and delays to what is an already protracted process. With many reporting that they feel unable to grieve until the end of the inquest, the implications of these delays need to be understood as also having a profound emotional impact. Covid-19 exacerbated the pre-existing physical, mental and financial burdens on vulnerable members of society, and was particularly felt when associated with a bereavement. Many post-death rituals, such as funerals and gatherings, have been limited, and newly bereaved families have felt greater isolation in this period as the lockdowns and restrictions impacted on their access to family and other support systems.

These challenges have emphasised the importance of our work to connect bereaved families, in person and online, and facilitate spaces and relationships for mutual support and solidarity. In the summer of 2021, after a successful eight-week pilot, we introduced a new series of online events for families which were focused not just on connection but on building skills for resilience and wellbeing to respond to the need for a different kind of support during the lengthy delays. We have also run training for families on self-organising on social networks and in the media, which have proved popular and been well utilised.

Over the period, we worked directly with bereaved families on over 90 press releases, with hundreds of pieces of news coverage as a result. These supported family campaigns, telling families' stories, and contributed to INQUEST's strategic aims.

CASEWORK

A caseworker's role is to support family members from the very first stages following a death and through the protracted process of the investigation and inquest. From providing families with information and legal representation to sourcing counselling and other services specific to their needs, or planning and co-hosting family events such as family forums and the online forums, the caseworker is always an invaluable source of support and information.

During the year April 2021 to March 2022, our casework team has worked on **1,541** cases, of which **409** (27%) were new cases. These cases involve police, prison, and mental health services. Overall:

- **438** (28%) involved mental health services
- **339** (22%) involved prisons
- **198** (13%) involved police

Over a quarter of cases (28%) involved deaths of people from Black, Asian and other racialised ethnic groups, who have long been overrepresented in contentious state-related deaths.

One family member who received casework support from INQUEST told us:

> *We simply couldn't have got through any of it without our caseworkers, it was already very isolating and lack of support from the coroner's court, so my mum wouldn't have had a proper inquest at all without your help.*

A challenge for our casework team has been the very low capacity of the INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG_, the network of barristers and solicitors representing families at inquests which INQUEST coordinates. We have met with some key members of the ILG who have stated they are under a significant pressure due to the backlog caused by the pandemic.

Case Study: A

The family of A contacted us hours after his death following police contact. They were distraught, angry and completely in the dark about the processes to follow. We advised them of their rights to legal representation and to seek an independent post-mortem. We secured a specialist family lawyer from the INQUEST Lawyers Group.

A's family were supported whilst viewing distressing video footage of the period leading to his death which formed part of the investigation. We facilitated support from other families we work with, and their INQUEST buddy significantly reduced the sense of isolation of both families. The impact of COVID on our continued support and assistance was minimised by moving to online platforms including Zoom and emails alongside telephone calls. The family were regularly informed of any changes to the service that could impact on them and the additional services available to them through the INQUEST Connection Café and Facebook.

Following government rules and risk assessments, we attended parts of the inquest hearing with the family and others via an audio link. In addition, we organised and supported the family through multiple media interviews. Following a highly critical conclusion to the inquest, the caseworker has maintained contact with and continues to provide advice and assistance to the family as they experience the after-effects of grief post-inquest that many families report.

Post-casework Feedback:

100% of families assesses the casework service provided by INQUEST as 'very good'.

67% of families said they felt more able to tackle challenges ahead as a result of their casework support. 33% did not answer. Similarly, 100% of respondents told us that the casework service gave them the support they needed.

On the question of feeling more connected to families as a result of our services, 40% strongly agreed, 50% agreed and 10% gave a neutral response.

- *I attended the connection cafe on 3rd March and found this to be a really enlightening experience. It's a weight off my mind being part of a network of people who understand the complexities, both*

practically and emotionally of going through the inquest process. There are certain things I feel are difficult to discuss with friends and family but could share with others through INQUEST knowing they would be supportive and empathetic on a meaningful level.

- *I don't know what I would have done without this support. I was overwhelmed, worried, stressed and grieving. INQUEST was a valuable lifeline to me. My caseworker was very compassionate, understanding, extremely knowledgeable and easy to talk to at such a difficult time. This took a massive weight off me as I really struggled to cope and cope to terms with everything. She explained the process which can be a bit of a minefield but did this eloquently and patiently. I feel very lucky to have been supported in this way and feel this service is extremely valuable for families.*

FAMILY PARTICIPATION & THE FAMILY REFERENCE GROUP

INQUEST has built its understanding of issues affecting bereaved families and advice practice through the involvement of families themselves. This partly happens though our Family Reference Group (FRG), made up of families who received, or continue to receive, support from INQUEST. The FRG advises us and feeds into our service planning and strategy. Families tell us they want to channel their energies into changing policy and practice, so no other family has to go through what they are going through. Our policy work relies heavily on this insight.

The pillars of family participation at INQUEST are:

- Improving family experience of processes
- Family involvement with INQUEST
- Building connection and solidarity
- Promoting change to the wider system

This year we have been continuing our previous work engaging families and enhancing opportunities to build connection and solidarity. We maintained some of the online spaces, such as Connection Café, due to the popularity they had with families, especially with those who previously struggled to engage with INQUEST as they were not based in London. This also allowed families to build connection and solidarity with each other across geographical areas, something which was previously limited to in-person Family Listening Days or Family Forums.

We have been continuously gathering the thoughts and feedback of families over the year, and innovating and adapting as we go along. We have been opening new spaces, such as the Evening Connection Café, Consultation Café, Listening at Lunch: Untangling Loss and the workshop series *Mind, Body Skills* and *Talk Justice* as a direct and timely response to what families have asked for. In doing so, we have aimed to create a more responsive development cycle where families feel they are being listened to, and are part of creating and generating the work we do.

Mind, Body Skills Workshops

Facilitators of the Connection Café requested more understanding of trauma, and while they attended a half-day session that was provided to our INQUEST Lawyers Group, they felt that this was not sufficient. As a result, we commissioned the *Mind, Body Skills* courses with an external facilitator to deliver the workshops. Seven participants took part in a pilot eight-week programme that took place every Friday from 12:30-2:30 and ran until 6 August 2021. Participants were directly recruited to this pilot programme and focus was given to those families supporting to coordinate he Connection Café space and families who are involved in post-inquest change-making work.

Following the success of this pilot, for the second series we ran another cohort from October to December and recruiting ten families who were awaiting inquests.

Family Feedback:

- *Absolutely amazing. I have worked as a professional facilitator myself and I thought V was just incredible. I've never felt so safe in a workshop which is a stunning achievement given the subject matter. V struck the perfect balance between leading and allowing conversation to*

flow, taught us a lot but allowed much of this to be self-directed. She never missed half time welfare breaks and worked diligently to encourage a culture of mutual respect that really lasted throughout the course with people rarely missing sessions and never coming into conflict. 10/10!

- *I am already in weekly therapy but even so I gained a much deeper understanding of the guilt and shame I carry around my traumatic bereavement and how to navigate this. Importantly also I learned that I am not alone in this experience and nothing less than the length, breadth and depth of V's course could have brought me to that place of understanding in community. It was a game changer. I am forever grateful.*

- *The process was so life affirming, because it gave me back control over my own emotions and grieving. It helped me to feel confident again in myself and managing my mental and physical state, that it's okay to feel sad, but it's also okay to do something about it on a day to day level. The little things in life can be very comforting. It was good to laugh and cry together as a group, instead of focusing on our campaigns etc. For once, we put ourselves first, we learned to understand what was going on between our minds and our bodies, and that was very healing.*

Over the last year, the use of the closed Facebook group as an online space for families to connect with each other has increased. More families are engaging with the group, and 152 now have accessed the group for support. We have also started using the events sections to advertise the increasing number of family events, as well as the guide section to create resources from families to access, e.g. 'How to prepare for an inquest'.

We have continued to run our Connection Café twice a month as morning and evening sessions. While we have regular attendees, not everyone attends every month, and some people attend consistently for a while and then find themselves moving on to other things. We like to see people find ways to build things back into their lives that they can draw strength and comfort from.

We have also run Consultation Cafes, with assistance from our Policy Team. This space provides an avenue for families to feed into our policy work, as well as to learn more about policies which are relevant to them. As part of this work strand, last year a group of families who we have been working with on the House of Commons Justice Committee's report drafted a letter to the then Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab, asking for meaningful commitment to the committee's report and important recommendations.
The letter asked for action on the inequality of arms at inquests, an appeals system for families, and highlights inconsistencies in the Coroner Service. The letter was signed by over 56 INQUEST families and was sent on 20 January 2022. The Minister for the Coroner Service at the time arranged to meet with families in spring 2022. This initiative is a clear example of the success of our integrated model, as it is born out of collaboration between bereaved families, our expert Policy Team and our Family Participation Officer.
This year, INQUEST launched a new family space to complement our regular morning or evening Connection Cafés, Listening at Lunch, following feedback from families. It consists of eight sessions which covered these topics:

Session 1:	Understanding Traumatic Bereavement
Session 2:	What Happens in Your Body
Session 3:	Talking to Children and Young People About Death
Session 4:	Untangling Loss: Why is Self-Care So Hard?
Session 5:	Untangling Loss: Survival Skills (Part 2 of Self Care)
Session 6:	Sleep
Session 7:	Models of Grief
Session 8:	Grief Rituals

Family Feedback

- *I just listened to the session on untangling loss. It was excellent and so much of what you discussed resonated with me. You did such a good job in presenting difficult content.*

- *I just caught up with your February broadcast of understanding traumatic bereavement. I just wanted to say thank you, it was really good and covered a lot. I will pass the link to my wider*

family.

- *Thanks, really appreciate being able to watch it afterwards in my own time since the inquest I feel I've pushed everything to the back of my mind which I now need to process so watching this video was a good start for me thank you x.*

As always, communication with families and putting them at the heart of what we do guides our model and will continue to guide us going into the next year, as we review and plan to recap on the eight sessions we have covered and to explore areas people would like to focus on in the coming year. We have also planned and organised in-person family events in London in the next year, as we know how important direct connection can be to families.

POLICY WORK

All our policy work and campaigns are informed by the experiences of families we work with and our unique overview of the legal processes that follow. In the reporting period, the INQUEST Policy Team completed numerous formal briefings, written submissions and responses. These cut across a range of issues, including our priority areas of work over the period.

Access to Justice

Our access to justice work went from strength to strength. Our Legal Aid Campaign grew during the reporting period. Our online petition has reached over 97,000 thousand unique signatures.

We made a huge contribution to the Inquiry into the Coroner Service held by the House of Commons Justice Committee. In addition to our written submission, our director, Deborah Coles, appeared before the committee alongside Andy McCulloch, a bereaved father, on 8 September 2020. Based on INQUEST's work with bereaved families over decades, they highlighted the inequality of arms that hinders bereaved families' abilities to secure truth and justice and the inadequacy of the systems meant for learning and prevention. This was informed by the contributions of all 51 families who provided INQUEST with evidence.

It was clear that our evidence informed the findings of the committee's report and included recommendations made by us. We subsequently held a Policy Consultation Café with families in July 2021, which 24 families attended, to discuss the report and next steps. This was a joint event between Family Participation and the Policy Team. Since then, we also sent a template letter out to encourage them to contact their MPs and apply pressure towards the implementation of the report's recommendations.

In December 2021, the government announced that exceptional case funding for inquests would no longer be means-tested from 12 January 2022. This hugely positive move means bereaved people facing Article 2 inquests will no longer face an intrusive and protracted means test application process. It will make funding available to more families who previously faced paying huge costs towards legal representation. It is an acknowledgment by the government that the current funding of inquests is fundamentally unfair.

This will help ensure more bereaved families have a voice and can meaningfully participate in the inquest process. It is also in the public interest, as inquests where families are represented can result in changes to policy and practice intended to prevent future deaths.

INQUEST has fought alongside bereaved people and lawyers on this issue since the organisation began 40 years ago. We have long called for automatic non-means-tested funding for legal representation of bereaved people following state-related deaths.

See our 16 December 2021 press release: www.inquest.org.uk/legalaid-ecf

While this represents a significant move in the right direction, our work on access to justice and legal aid has not slowed down. We have produced a video (available here) outlining the urgent need for change in funding for inquests, in collaboration with The Law in 60 Seconds and Young Legal Aid Lawyers. The new legal aid video with Law in 60 Seconds was cited in this House of Commons briefing on a debate on 22 February 2022 on legal aid in the north west.

A group of over 56 families who we have worked with on the Justice Committee's report drafted and signed a letter to the then-Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab, on 20 January 2022. The letter asked for meaningful commitment to the committee's report and important recommendations, and for action on the inequality of arms at inquests, an appeals system for families and inconsistencies in the Coroner Service. The Minister for the Coroner service, Tom Pursglove, met with families in May 2022. Those who attended thought the meeting went well and felt listened to. This project also provides a clear example of the success of our integrated model, as it is born out of collaboration between bereaved families, our expert Policy Team and our Family Participation Officer.

Our work around the Judicial Review and Courts Bill, identified as a priority, continues. We have sent a joint briefing, in collaboration with JUSTICE, to members of the House of Lords, in advance of the First Reading in January 2022. We highlighted the need for the bill to be amended to ensure the wishes of bereaved families are properly considered and to ensure public funding for bereaved people at inquests. The bill went through to the committee stage. INQUEST and JUSTICE's proposed amendments on clauses 38, 39 and 40 and on public funding for bereaved people at inquests were debated. The relevant amendments were withdrawn or not moved.

INQUEST and our work were featured heavily and discussed during parliamentary proceedings, including by Baroness Chakrabarti, Lord Thomas and Baroness Jones. Baroness Chapman said:

> *I gently ask the Minister to consider meeting some representatives of the unrivalled NGO INQUEST before Report. That organisation and those working within it have done so much work over the years with a number of bereaved families. I am sure they would at least help illuminate the Minister's understanding of what some of these most difficult inquests are like for ordinary people.*

We are optimistic this will result in a meeting.

Our work on the Hillsborough Law continued, albeit slowed down during the reporting period by the trial. The Home Affairs Select Committee published their report on Police Conduct and Complaints, including Deborah Coles, director of INQUEST, as a witness and provided numerous mentions of INQUEST.

Policing

Data on deaths involving the police published in July 2021 showed there were 19 deaths in or following police custody in 2020-2021. The majority of people who died had mental health concerns and/or were restrained by police prior to their death. There were also 54 apparent suicides following custody, and 92 'other' deaths following contact with the police. Analysis by *The Independent* showed these figures represent a continued disproportionate number of Black people dying in or following contact with police.

Despite promises of action on racism, mental health and restraint, these figures and issues are largely consistent with those of the past decade. Yet the government recently claimed it has made "significant progress" in preventing deaths in custody following a 2017 review by Dame Elish Angiolini QC.

This was reported in the latest *Government Progress Update* on the *Report of the Independent Review of Deaths and Serious Incidents in Police Custody*. However, if meaningful action is being taken by the government, police forces and public bodies, then why do preventable deaths keep occurring? We discuss this in more detail here.

In August, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) published a review of cases involving the use of Tasers between 2015-2020. The review had highly critical findings and highlighted ongoing issues, including continued disproportionate prolonged Taser use against Black people. INQUEST responded, alongside some of the families of those who died, calling for stronger action.

Police officers accused of misconduct are using "defensive tactics" to avoid accountability, reported *The Independent* in January 2022. INQUEST discussed continued concerns with police misconduct processes, including increasing anger and suspicion arising from anonymity and a lack of candour by police.

Where gross misconduct proceedings for police do take place, many lead to little action. The BBC investigated, finding that of 118 cases where the standards breach was proven by force disciplinary panels, 55 led to the officer losing their job. INQUEST responded, highlighting the importance of action and transparency to ensure the police are not above the law.

Structural Racism

The last three years have brought about an increased focus on structural racism in policing following the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing global protest movement. As a result, our expertise was widely sought after and our constantly updated statistical and evidence-based information received wide attention. We welcome the conversation on the disproportionate state violence that the evidence shows racialised people in England and Wales are victims of.

In July 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, published a damning report calling on states including the UK to "end impunity" for human rights violations against Black people by police officers and reverse the "cultures of denial" towards systemic racism. INQUEST provided evidence and analysis to inform the report and facilitated direct input from bereaved families. One of seven case studies included from around the world was on Kevin Clarke.
Marcia Rigg also shared details of her long fight for justice in a closed consultation with the UN High Commissioner, meeting with other bereaved families, including the brother of George Floyd. Also in July, we worked hard to support proposals before the UN Human Rights Council (OHCHR) to establish an independent international expert mechanism to address systemic racism and promote racial justice and equality for Africans and people of African descent. The OHCHR have sought our input to help define the next steps in their work.

In October, we facilitated for Marcia Rigg to deliver a video statement to the Human Rights Council on behalf of INQUEST, the United Families and Friends Campaign and the International Service for Human Rights. She called for member states to put the voices of victims of racism and bereaved families at the heart of the transformative racial justice agenda.

We completed the first phase of our detailed research into accountability for racial discrimination in police-related deaths, focussing on the IOPC and inquest and criminal processes, with in-depth interviews of 12 expert lawyers and the families of five Black men who died. Our research and policy officer convened an excellent roundtable discussion with these leading lawyers to share the initial findings. Our short but hard-hitting report, *I Can't Breathe: Race, Death & British Policing*, was published in February 2023. There are many ideas for taking the research findings forward through legal work and other avenues.

Prisons

In the reporting period, INQUEST has worked on 339 active cases of deaths in prison, directly supporting bereaved families. 69 of these were new cases.
The condition of prisoners has not improved during the reporting period. The Covid-19 crisis made things much worse if anything, due to the change in regimes, increased isolation and trauma, as well as the impact of the pandemic in health terms among the prison population. INQUEST continues to campaign tirelessly on the issue of prisons.
In 2021, there were a total of 371 deaths of people in prison, representing the highest annual number of deaths ever recorded, with more than one death a day. This is despite recent reductions in the prison population. There were 4.7 deaths per 1,000 prisoners, the highest-ever rate of deaths.
INQUEST's casework and monitoring of investigations and inquests has continued to demonstrate that many deaths in prison are preventable, and the result of neglect and systemic failings in care.
Over the reporting period, INQUEST has worked alongside the families of those who have died to ensure they can get to the truth about what happened to their relative. We continue to ensure that the family voice is well represented in the media and that their deaths are situated within a wider social and political context.
Our casework has long shown that an unacceptable number of so called "natural causes" deaths, as defined by the Ministry of Justice, are in fact the result of poor healthcare in prison. Our evidence shows that people are dying prematurely and unnecessarily. The impact of the pandemic on this issue has been hugely significant.
Data on deaths in prisons published in June 2021 showed that in the previous 12 months, 396 people died. This is over a third higher than the previous 12 months and the highest rate of deaths per 1,000 prisoners on record. Of these, 80 deaths were self-inflicted, a 3% increase.

These statistics reveal the devastating impact of Covid-19 and highly restricted prison regimes on both the mental and physical health of people in prisons. Our head of policy at the time, Louise Finer, spoke to BBC File on 4 about the broader failings in the prison healthcare system which are contributing to yet more preventable deaths.

In September, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) published their report on a particularly shocking death in prison, the death of a baby at HMP Bronzefield in 2019. INQUEST worked with the mother's legal team and responded:

This harrowing report exposes the inhumane treatment of a young woman in need. It is further evidence of the inability and inappropriateness of prisons for keeping people facing serious trauma safe, and in this case their newborn babies.

We supported the campaign led by Women in Prison and Birth Companions calling for the government to stop sending pregnant women to prison.

We continued to monitor prisons of particular concern (such as Chelmsford and Birmingham) and work with families. HM Inspectorate of Prisons in February 2022 published a damning report of an inspection of HMP Foston Hall in Derbyshire, alongside a very concerning briefing paper on women's prisons more broadly. INQUEST responded:

Foston Hall prison is a dangerous and harmful place for women. Horrendous rates of self-harm, exacerbated by the impact of Covid and restricted regimes, punitive treatment, and segregation for women in crisis. This is inhumane and unjust.

The reality for many women in prison is stories of domestic violence, abuse, addictions, and mental ill health. Ministers continue to expand the women's prison estate and ignore the compelling evidence from inquests, inspections, and reviews of the urgent need for structural change. The government must work across health, social care, and justice departments to dismantle failing women's prisons and invest in specialist women's services. Without this the harms, deaths and devastating impact on women and their families will continue.

Deborah Coles raised a number of important questions at the November 2021 Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody in response to the PPO investigations into the tragic deaths of two babies at Bronzefield and Styal prisons (see above), and gave comments in the media. We received a response in March 2022, promising a further progress update from the Prison Service and NHS England to be provided at the next meeting of the board.

Covid-19

Deborah Coles is in direct contact and dialogue with statutory bodies, investigation, inspection and monitoring boards, the Chief Coroner and ministers in order to monitor the Covid-19 situation in terms of prisons (as an example, she had two meetings with Lucy Frazer, the then Prisons Minister, and a meeting with Charlie Taylor, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons), policing, immigration and mental health and learning disability detention.

She is also a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody, which is a public appointment jointly sponsored by the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice. As a result, she was able to add her influence and gain access to senior officials and civil servants and ministers to raise concerns about protecting those in detention and also ensure that post-death processes could work as reasonably as practical during a difficult time. This enabled more influencing around the need for the vaccination programme, early release from prison and the impact of Covid-19.

INQUEST supported a legal challenge by over 1,600 Covid-19 bereaved families for an independent public inquiry. At a time when they were grieving, they were forced to litigate to try and force the government to act. INQUEST is proud to have supported the inception of the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, by advising them on their policy and lobbying work, sharing with them our expertise on the investigation of contentious deaths and on statutory public inquiries. This is vital for justice truth and accountability, as well as its stated aim of using its learning to save lives.

This campaign very much speaks to INQUEST's values and charity objectives. On an operational level, we advised them on their infrastructure and temporarily held significant grant funding on their behalf.

Mental Health and Care Settings

In 2018, INQUEST alongside the family of Seni Lewis and a coalition of campaigners successfully campaigned for the passing of 'Seni's Law', the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act. However, since then there have been continued delays in progressing the guidance to enact the law. INQUEST has worked with the family and MP who led on the law, Steve Reed, to encourage progress. In 2020-2021, consultation took place on the guidance and INQUEST facilitated input from bereaved families affected.

We worked with four London-based families on the Seni's Law guidance, having meetings with the Department of Health on the details. The draft was circulated in Spring 2021 – the families were brought back together and gave feedback. They also spoke at related events. Our director, Deborah Coles, and Aji Lewis, Seni's mother, spoke at the South London and Maudsley (SLAM) February 2021 conference on Seni's Law, detention and race interrogated on reducing restraint.

INQUEST were extremely concerned about the rise in deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act since the pandemic, which not only relates to Covid-19 infections, but a significant rise in the number of deaths overall.

The Care Quality Commission reported that between 1 March 2020 and 3 September 2021 they were notified of 668 deaths of detained patients. Of these, 179 related to Covid-19 and 489 did not. Thirty-six of those people were reported as having a learning disability or autism, most of whom also had a mental health diagnosis. The majority of these (25) did not relate to Covid-19.

Recent inquests have highlighted a number of recurring issues in mental health and secure care settings nationally. We are particularly alarmed by repeated incidents involving mental health patients being able to access items which should be restricted, with fatal consequences. This was identified in the inquests of Joshua Sahota, Samantha Pounsberry and Sarah Price, who were all able to access the same item to self-harm, despite the known risks.

The inquest into the death of Ben King, a man with Down's syndrome and a severe learning disability, concluded making a number of criticisms of the care he received. He died in July 2020, after spending over two years at Cawston Park, a now closed hospital for people with learning disabilities where two other people died in recent years. His mother, alongside the parents of Joanna Bailey, spoke to *The Sunday Mirror*.

The families of three young people who all died in the same hospital in Manchester have also been speaking out in *The Manchester Evening News*. Rowan Thompson, Charlie Millers and Ania Sohail died in Prestwich Hospital in the past 12 months in concerning circumstances. We have called for urgent action from the Care Quality Commission to ensure other young people are kept safe.

In December 2021, The Care Quality Commission published concerning new data on mental health detention in England. In 2020-2021 they recorded 369 people's deaths, which is a third higher than the total number of deaths in the year before.

The majority (268) relate to 'natural causes', including 114 which related to Covid-19. We recently spoke to the BBC alongside the family of Charlie Millers, raising concerns about the impact of the pandemic on both the mental and physical health of patients.

The cause of 62 deaths is currently undetermined, and 33 were 'unnatural causes', which includes self-inflicted deaths. Half of the unnatural deaths were of people under 30, while a disproportionate number of deaths overall (61) were of people categorised as having a 'Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background'.

INQUEST highlighted high numbers of deaths and concerns in three mental health trusts.

We joined the family of Bethany Tenquist in calling for action following an investigation into Sussex Partnership NHS Trust in *The Telegraph* finding high numbers of contentious deaths of patients.

We continue to stand with families raising concerns about Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, who spoke out in local media as yet another inquest critical of the trust's services concluded.

INQUEST is involved in three recent cases involving the deaths of young patients in Prestwich Hospital, run by Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust. Alongside their families, we continue to raise concerns about the trust and call for action from the regulator.

Case Study: J

J was a 27-year-old civil engineer who had suffered with bulimia for many years. In June 2020, she sought help from her GP for depression, self-harm and suicidal ideation. She underwent a mental health assessment and was referred to Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). In October 2020, her mental health deteriorated, and she was referred to Link House (a women's crisis home) by the CMHT. Three days after arriving, she told staff that she was feeling worse. Despite this, staff at Link House did not move her from the attic room she was staying in, which was far away from staff and had several ligature points. The family were greatly concerned by the presence of ligature points and asked staff on numerous occasions to move J. The staff did not listen to J's family. On 16 October 2020, J took her life in her room.

J's family came to INQUEST asking for help with the process. They had been informed that J's inquest would be 'documentary' only (an inquest on the papers). Their caseworker at INQUEST advised them that if they wanted to engage in the process and explore issues relating to the care that J received, they should request a full inquest. J's family did not know that they could request this. Their caseworker helped the family put the request in writing seeking to adjourn the inquest. This request was successful. In the months that followed, the caseworker supported the family throughout the trust's serious incident investigation, and they received a highly critical report into their daughter's death, with several failings identified.

The caseworker then identified a strong legal team for the family. Despite Article 2 not being engaged, the legal team continue to represent this family pro bono at the inquest taking place in June 2022.

The family have also been engaged in wider policy work, including Consultation Cafés on our campaign for legal aid.

Case Study: G

G began experiencing paranoid thoughts and poor mental health in the weeks prior to his death. After attempting to take his life, he was voluntarily admitted to the Priory Hospital Arnold on 31 August 2020. On admission, G was placed on anti-depressants that were discontinued only one week later due to side effects, without any alternative being considered or provided to him.

Following an incident on 13 September where staff were concerned about the behaviour G was exhibiting, they discovered a self-made ligature during a search of his room. He was reviewed at a multidisciplinary team meeting the next day and the decision was made not to proceed with a formal mental health assessment. A week later, G was discovered to be missing from his bedroom and after a search he was found hanging in the ensuite bathroom attached to his room.

G 's family came to INQUEST for advice and support. Initially, they did not want to engage in an adversarial process and did not believe that they would need legal representation at the inquest. The family's assigned inquest caseworker went through the serious incident report with the family, advised them on the process and explained how an inquest can expose failings and lead to change. After listening to their caseworker, the family decided that they did want legal representation. Their caseworker identified suitable lawyers for the family and attended the subsequent family-lawyer conferences.

At one of these conferences, the lawyers indicated they were not of the view that Article 2 would be engaged at G's inquest. The caseworker disagreed and undertook research on similar cases where Article 2 had been engaged. This detailed research note was sent to the lawyers, who revaluated their initial advice and decided to make Article 2 submissions to the coroner. These submissions were successful and resulted in an Article 2 inquest that investigated the failures of the hospital to provide adequate care to G.

At the inquest, the coroner found that serious and inexplicable omissions in care at the Priory Hospital had contributed to G's death. A successful civil claim was subsequently pursued using the evidence of failings that were brought to light at the inquest.

Feedback

March 2022: The mother of a case involving Langley Green Hospital, Sussex Mental Health and police. The mother told our caseworker she was a coroner's officer herself and initially thought she could do this alone, but

that her colleagues at West Sussex Coroner's Court told her she had to contact us and would be "in safe hands". She said: "it's clear that you genuinely care about helping families like me going through the worst imaginable thing".

The sister of man who died in mental health settings said:

> *I can honestly say I feel privileged having met with her I feel she will get answers to what went wrong within my brother's care. I cannot believe we as a family are going to be supported throughout this terrible process and once again I would just like to thank you for introducing me to her I will never forget the conversation we had and I think that initial conversation before the actual event is a massive part of the process and I have you to thank for that you were great in listening and taking notes that conversation will stay with me forever.*

Grenfell

This year, we attended the first in-person Grenfell Walk since 2019, which was a great opportunity for INQUEST's Grenfell Project Coordinator to speak with Grenfell United and other community members, as well as colleagues representing the bereaved, survivors and residents (BSRs) and from Greater London Authority.

We met with lawyers from both legal teams representing the BSRs to identify how INQUEST can support clients throughout the aftermath and inquest modules of the inquiry.

We met with Grenfell United and Justice4Grenfell throughout the year, identified how we can support their campaigns and work together on INQUEST's National Oversight Mechanism (NOM) campaign beyond the inquiry. We also identified that there was anxiety, stress and confusion around the inquest function of the inquiry regarding the process, timescale and expectations, and informed the legal teams.

We held a small Consultation Café ahead of Module 4 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry which focused on the aftermath. The format was a drop-in session to discuss any queries to be fed back to legal teams ahead of Module 4, which was a difficult module for the BSRs.

We submitted recommendations submissions to the inquiry. We highlighted the history of recommendations not being implemented following inquiries generally and in phase one of the inquiry, the importance of a NOM and achieving change from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Before submitting, we met with lawyers to discuss the relevant content of the submissions in relation to recommendations and the NOM. Both teams representing the BSRs endorsed the National Oversight Mechanism. We have been informed that the inquiry panel are reviewing our submissions.

Scotland

INQUEST, following interest from campaigners, grassroots organisations, families and politicians, has been involved in policy work in Scotland. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has significantly slowed down our work as it prevented travel and setting up of networks. Nonetheless, we have move forward with some of the work and have increased our in-person participation since lockdowns and restrictions were eased.

INQUEST has been working with the family and legal team since the death of Sheku Bayoh in 2015, a 34-year-old Black man, after being restrained by police officers. A key part of Deborah Coles' work has been sharing expertise on deaths in custody, race and restraint from work on relevant cases in England and Wales. We have viewed with concern the limitations and failings of the investigation and prosecutorial processes on this case in Scotland and the significant delays that the family have experienced. To that end we worked with the lawyers and family to lobby for the Scottish Government to set up a public inquiry into Bayoh's death, given the serious human rights issues it raises.

In November 2019, Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland, announced an independent public inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh. The announcement followed a meeting in the Scottish Parliament with the then First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, Humza Yousaf and Sheku Bayoh's family, their lawyer Aamer Anwar, and Deborah Coles.

The inquiry has been subject to delay with the impact of the pandemic and finally commenced on Tuesday 10 May 2022. Prior to the inquiry, Deborah met with the family on several occasions, including advising them and their lawyers on the use of 'pen portraits', personal tributes to those who have died that were used in both the Hillsborough Inquests and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. She was also engaged in a series of meetings with the family's legal team.

Deborah travelled to Scotland to be present at the first week of the inquiry. Her comments and expertise have been widely sought after by the press, including by *The Independent* and the *Guardian*. Deborah was also interviewed for a Sky TV podcast. There will be sessions of the inquiry that the lawyers have identified as being of particular importance in Deborah's attendance and engagement, specifically those around the use of police restraint and race.



INQUEST has also provided evidence to the Scottish Mental Health and Incapacity Law Review, sharing expertise and experience in relation to law and the reduction of coercive practices, such as the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in mental health services. Deborah attended a meeting with several of the advisory team and those with lived experience on developing legislation and taking this through the UK parliament. She was able to share her experience on the use of force in mental health settings following the death of Seni Lewis, who was restrained by police officers whilst a patient in a mental health setting.

Over the last year, INQUEST kept sharing its knowledge and its advice via meetings with stakeholders, as well as in public speaking settings. For example, Deborah gave a presentation in January 2022 at Edinburgh's Napier University on the topic of Investigation of Deaths in Mental Health Detention and Homicides held by the Centre for Mental Health and Capacity Law. She has also worked with academics and bereaved family member Linda Allan based at the the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJ), who were conducting research looking at 196 fatal accident inquiries (FAI - the equivalent of inquests) that were held because of a death in prison. She was invited to read and comment on this in advance of their public launch in October 2021, and their press release research included quotes from Deborah on how the FAI system was failing bereaved people.



Over a 15-year period, their analysis found that FAIs are taking three or more years to conclude, and in 94% no recommendations are made to prevent future deaths. Meanwhile, the number of deaths in Scottish prisons has risen. INQUEST joined the researchers and campaigners in calling for action to challenge this failing system.

Deborah Coles has also attended numerous valuable meetings with stakeholders in Scotland, including with the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Scottish members of the National Preventive Mechanism, the Scottish Government and the Mental Welfare Commission Scotland.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1046650

Company registration number: 03054853

Registered and principal office: Unit T3
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees
The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Diane Newton (Chair)
Daniel Machover
Geraldine Isherwood
Kevin Blowe
Ruth Bundey
Jennifer Nadel (terminated on 23 May 2023)
Joe Sim
Stephen Tombs
Rajiv Menon
Sigrun Asa Danielsson
Pete Weatherby
Patrick Williams (appointed 10 November 2021)
Douglas Stephen Cave (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute (appointed on 23 May 2023)
Marcia Patricia Rigg- Samuel (appointed on 23 May 2023)

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2021 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary: Arnaud Vervoitte

Chief Executive Officer: Deborah Coles

Statutory Auditors: Barcant Beardon Limited
Chartered Accountants
8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

Banker: Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham B1 2HB

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

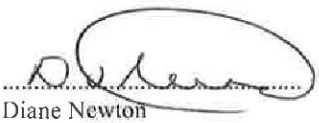
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Diane Newton
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19 June 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

19th June 2023

Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	531,285	295,678	826,963	1,051,859
Charitable activities	4	-	14,920	14,920	11,059
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	5,614
Investments	6	-	147	147	118
Total income and endowments		531,285	310,745	842,030	1,068,650
Expenditure on:					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	7	-	57,859	57,859	54,873
Charitable activities	8	485,385	450,466	935,851	783,373
Total expenditure		485,385	508,325	993,710	838,246
Net income/(expenditure)		45,900	(197,580)	(151,680)	230,404
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		45,900	(197,580)	(151,680)	230,404
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	327,415	327,415	97,011
Total funds carried forward		45,900	129,835	175,735	327,415

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	12,047	5,495
Current assets			
Debtors	16	121,570	27,390
Cash at bank and in hand		182,624	575,946
		304,194	603,336
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(140,506)	(281,416)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		163,688	321,920
Net assets		175,735	327,415
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	45,900	-
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	19	129,835	327,415
Total charity funds		175,735	327,415

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

G Isherwood.

Geraldine Isherwood
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19 June 2023

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form part of these financial statements.
Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	(379,996)	461,610
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest income		147	118
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(13,473)	(2,004)
Net cash used in investing activities		(13,326)	(1,886)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(393,322)	459,724
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		575,946	116,222
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		182,624	575,946
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in bank and in hand		182,624	575,946
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22.1	182,624	575,946

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years (previously 25% p.a. reducing balance)

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.0 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2022 £	2021 £
Gifts	69,042	228,818
Gift Aid tax reclaims	7,966	13,452
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted	20,000	15,000
Allen & Overy Foundation (Unrestricted)	-	5,000
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	20,000	20,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	55,000	70,057
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	95,000	100,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	82,388	110,703
John Ellerman Foundation (Unrestricted)	-	40,000
Grants from other sources (Restricted)	448,897	425,599
Memberships	28,670	23,230
	826,963	1,051,859

3.1 Income from donations and legacies was £826,963 (2021 - £1,051,859) of which £531,285 (2021 - £536,302) was attributable to restricted and £295,678 (2021 - £515,557) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4.0	***Income from Charitable Activities***	2022 £	2021 £
	Income from consulting and training services	7,275	7,030
	Income from publications	3,856	4,029
	Income from grants	3,789	-
		14,920	11,059

4.1 Income from charitable activities was £14,920 (2021 - £11,059) of which £nil (2021 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £14,920 (2021 - £11,059) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5.0	***Income from Other Trading Activities***	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
	Fundraising events	-	5,614

6.0	***Income from Investments***	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
	Interest – bank	147	118

7.0	***Expenditure on Raising Funds***	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
	Staff costs	57,438	51,855
	Other fundraising costs	421	3,018
		57,859	54,873

8.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Charitable Activities 2022	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	218,185	-	218,185
Casework and other family support	608,603	108,233	716,836
Publications	830	-	830
	827,618	108,233	935,851

8.1 Charitable Activities 2021

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	130,051	19,371	149,422
Casework and other family support	550,392	82,184	632,576
Publications	1,375	-	1,375
	681,818	101,555	783,373

8.2 Of the £935,851 expenditures in 2022 (2021 - £783,373), £485,385 (2021 - £536,302) was attributable to restricted funds and £450,466 (2021 - £247,071) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support	Governance costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Premises	61,910	-	61,910	55,417
Office running	17,896	-	17,896	11,886
Information technology	16,806	-	16,806	17,096
Finance	-	-	-	-
Legal and professional	1,861	-	1,861	301
Bookkeeping	2,839	-	2,839	2,479
Depreciation	6,921	-	6,921	4,576
Audit/Independent examination	-	9,400	9,400	9,800
Trustees' expenses	-	80	80	-
	108,233	9,480	117,713	101,555

10.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year

	2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	9,400	9,800
Depreciation	6,921	4,576
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	52,800	48,400

11.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2021 – none). Travel costs amounting to £80 (2021 - £nil) were reimbursed to one (2021 – no) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £nil (2021 - £nil). No (2021 – No) trustee(s) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2021 - £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2021 – Nil).

12.0 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	672,475	576,474
Social security costs	65,498	53,809
Pensions	49,518	41,885
	787,491	672,168

12.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
	2	1

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £11,529 (2021 - £6,157).

12.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £253,161 (2021 - £263,558). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director, Head of Policy and Head of Casework.

13.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 19.75 staff (2021: 15.6 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Direct charitable work	16.7	14.9

14.0 Taxation

Inquest Charitable Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2021	23,891
Additions	13,473
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2022	37,364
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2021	18,396
Charge for the year	6,921
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2022	25,317
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2022	12,047
At 1 April 2021	5,495

16.0 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	17,970	4,035
Other debtors	223	1,340
Grants receivables and accrued income	94,788	15,000
Prepayments	8,589	7,015
	121,570	27,390

17.0 ***Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year***	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	15,612	4,428
Taxation and social security	18,069	16,034
Accruals	38,426	45,476
Other creditors	14,276	83,290
Deferred income (see note 18)	54,123	132,188
	140,506	281,416

17.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £7,185 (2021 - £4,791).

18.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total £
Balance as at 1 April 2021	132,188
Amount released in the year	(132,188)
Amount deferred in the year	54,123
Balance as at 31 March 2022	54,123

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year	Balance 1 Apr 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2022 £
General funds	327,415	310,745	(508,325)	-	129,835

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2021 £
General funds	97,011	532,348	(301,944)	-	327,415

Name of unrestricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
General funds	The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

19.1 ***Restricted Funds – Current year***

	Balance 1 Apr 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2022 £
Baring Foundation	-	8,334	(8,334)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	25,000	(20,100)	-	4,900
National Lottery Community Fund	-	155,290	(114,290)	-	41,000
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	56,800	(56,800)	-	-
Garden Court	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	29,450	(29,450)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	82,389	(82,389)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	49,852	(49,852)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,170	(10,170)	-	-
	-	531,285	(485,385)	-	45,900

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2021 £
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	22,116	(22,116)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	71,717	(71,717)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	94,688	(94,688)	-	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	57,750	(57,750)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	110,703	(110,703)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	49,328	(49,328)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	-	536,302	(536,302)	-	-

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
Baring Foundation	change work around addressing structural racism.
Barrow Cadbury Trust	Policy & influencing, family participation
National Lottery Community Fund	England & Wales casework, family participation
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	London casework
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garden Court	Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
Open Society Foundation	Covid specific work
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Trust for London	Casework, policy and campaign work in London
Wates Foundation	Scotland Project

20.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	12,047	12,047
Cash at bank and in hand	45,900	136,724	182,624
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(18,936)	(18,936)
	45,900	129,835	175,735

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	5,495	5,495
Cash at bank and in hand	122,018	453,928	575,946
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(122,018)	(132,008)	(254,026)
	-	327,415	327,415

21.0 Operating Leases - Lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	52,800	53,143
Later than one and not later than five years	114,400	167,200
More than five years	-	-
	167,200	220,343

22.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income for the year	(151,680)	230,404
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(147)	(118)
Depreciation	6,921	4,576
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(94,180)	21,202
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(140,910)	205,546
	(379,996)	461,610

22.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 31 March 2021	Cash-flows	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	575,646	(393,022)	182,624

23.0 Related Party Transactions

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £4,000 (2021 - £5,500).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 11, donations and other income totalling £260 (2021 - £230) were receivable from trustees during the year.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1046650

Accounts

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

INQUEST Charitable Trust works to end deaths caused by unsafe systems of detention and care, use of force and by institutional failure. Through our work we also seek to reduce the number of custodial deaths and improve the treatment and care of those within the institutions where the deaths occur. INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide specialist advice and support to bereaved families following a sudden or unexpected death in systems of custody, care and detention. Founded in 1981, our work spans across prisons, police, and mental health and learning disability institutions and multi-agency failings. The evidence gathered from our specialist casework with thousands of bereaved people over 35 years informs our policy, lobbying and campaigns. This way of working is crucial to families, not only in holding the state to account for the individual deaths, but also in changing policy and practice. Our unique overview makes INQUEST an authority on post-death investigations and inquests, allowing us to drive the campaign to improve the inquest procedures for all bereaved people, improve mechanisms for holding government, state and corporate bodies to account and campaign for systemic change.

INQUEST Charitable Trust was established in 1995 to complement and assist the work of its sister organisation INQUEST, founded in 1981. In March 2004, the two organisations merged into a single charitable organisation known publicly as INQUEST. As set out in its articles of association, INQUEST aims:

- To advance education of the public by, in particular, research into and publication and dissemination of information concerning sudden or unexplained deaths or deaths which are or may be subject to a Coroner's inquest.
- To provide relief of distress amongst the bereaved in particular by provision of information, advice, counselling and support.
- To undertake any other charitable objective.

Core Activities

1. ***Casework***: INQUEST is the only organisation in England and Wales to provide a specialist, comprehensive advice service on contentious deaths and their investigation to people bereaved by a death in custody/state care or detention and/or raise wider issues of state and corporate accountability. INQUEST pays particular attention to all cases that engage Article 2 of the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights).

INQUESTS's casework priorities are deaths in:

- prisons
- policy custody and following police contact
- mental health and learning disability institutions
- immigration detention
- through multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question

2. ***Policy and parliamentary work:*** this is informed by our casework; data collection and wider research and we work to ensure that the collective experiences of bereaved people underpin this. In addition to leading the policy agenda, we work in partnership with families and empower them to present their cases directly to parliamentarians and policy makers.

3. ***Family Empowerment and Engagement:*** we organise family events and activities to ensure families are supported and able to influence wider systemic change. We hold family forums which bring together families to support each other and share experiences, reducing the isolation and sense of bewilderment families feel. We have a family reference group which is remitted to engage in and help shape INQUEST's work. To enable families to influence policy and practice, we organise Family Listening Days; this is a unique model that INQUEST has developed.

4. ***Inquest Lawyers Group:*** we manage the Inquest Lawyers Group (ILG) which is a national group of lawyers who act in the field of inquest law predominantly for bereaved families and share INQUEST's objectives. The Group is overseen by a steering committee which organises training, seminars and fundraising events and contributes to our policy work.

FUND-RAISING STANDARDS INFORMATION

INQUEST is committed to fundraising best practice. We follow the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice, which includes the General Data Protection Regulations, introduced in 2018. Our staff maintain a considerate and non-intrusive approach to fundraising. We do not undertake cold-calling or employ third parties to raise funds. We enjoy a very positive relationship with all our funders and supporters. No complaint has been received and all fundraising activity is reviewed at our Finance and Personnel Subcommittee, held at least 4 times per year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document
INQUEST Charitable Trust is a registered charity (number 1046650) and a company limited by guarantee (number 03054853).

INQUEST is constituted as a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 10 May 1995 and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 May 1995. In the event of the company being wound up, all trustees present, and 12 months past are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are referred to as the Trustees or Board of Trustees.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction
New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees and are recruited in line with our equal opportunities policy and taking regard of any skills gaps within the existing Board to ensure a collective mix of skills, experiences, knowledge and qualities that will enable INQUEST to effectively meet the needs of its service users. The Board elects Officers from amongst its membership.

Prior to appointment, prospective Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director and at least one other trustee or key member of staff. New Trustees receive information including the Memorandum and Articles, accounts, business plans, Charity Commission and other literature. Introductory briefings with the Executive Director and key staff are provided.

As of 31 March 2021, INQUEST had eleven Trustees. The Trustees bring a broad range of highly relevant skills and knowledge from their backgrounds in human rights, academia, the law and organisational development together with strategic development and governance skills. The Trustees all have a strong commitment to social justice and equality.

Structure
The Board meets between 4 and 6 times a year and is responsible for the good governance of the organisation, employment of its staff and its overall strategic direction in conjunction with the Executive Director. The Board is supported by the Finance and Personnel sub-committee, made up of at least 3 Trustees and meets 4 times a year, in between full Board meetings at which it reports back and make full recommendations to the Board. The Executive Director, with the Operations Director, attend all meetings and other staff attend when required.

Remuneration of Staff
Remuneration is benchmarked with salaries for similar roles in organisations in the charitable sector and salaries are reviewed on an annual basis, and increased, where appropriate, subject to contractual agreements, inflation, performance or changes in scope of work. The remuneration of the Executive Director is approved by the Board and the remuneration of other staff is approved by the Executive Director.

Staff

At 31st March 2021, the total staff number was 19:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Louise Finer, Head of Policy (appointed 18 May 2020)
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jasmine Leng, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework (appointed 15 June 2020)
Nancy Kelehar, Caseworker (appointed 25 January 2021)
Natasha Thompson, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer
Claire Campbell, Policy and Research Assistant
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Jennifer Edmunds, Administration Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Bola Awogboro, Casework Assistant
Yohanah Rodney, Casework Assistant
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer (appointed 11 January 2021)
Raekha Prasad, Research and Policy Officer (appointed 11 January 2021)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Public Benefit Statement

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the charity's activities, the trustees referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The legal procedures following deaths that require an inquest are unfamiliar to most people and we use our unique overview of how the whole system works from the perspective of bereaved people to advise, support and empower families so they are in a better position to cope with the stresses related to such a daunting, often protracted and intrusive legal process. We can speak with authority because of the direct link between our casework and our policy interventions. Informed by issues arising out of the casework, the organisation continues to seek to influence policy makers to effect changes to the investigation and inquest process, and when necessary the organisation will collaborate with relevant partner organisations to achieve these objectives.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

OUR ORGANISATION

The Covid-19 public health crisis has obviously had a significant impact on the families we support and on our operating model. INQUEST stepped up a week before national lockdown became government policy, so we could adapt and be ready to utilise our expertise and experience in the most effective way under the circumstances. Our entire organisation has worked remotely for 15 months, after we set up telephone, IT and video conferencing facilities. This has ensured that our work remains as effective, impactful, and seamless as before whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff. Firstly, we created a Covid-19 page aimed at bringing together information for families and other stakeholders and all our related work (See: www.inquest.org.uk/covid19).

Our casework team has been closely monitoring the situation as it unfolded, and adapting our services and advice to families. Our Family Participation Officer and casework team have worked on additional support systems and resources, as well as on contacting isolated families.

Staff wise, we have restructured the Management Team, and imbedded the post of Head of Casework. This now means that INQUEST has a four strong Senior Management Team, made up of the Executive Director, Operations & Development, and the Heads of Casework and Policy.

Funding wise, we secured a three-year major grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, and a five year grant from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to support our integrated model. The grant will also part fund the salary of an Operations and Development Officer supporting Directors in fundraising, project development, monitoring and evaluation and human resources administration. We have also secured a new four year grant from the Oak Foundation to carry on with our Grenfell project, and one from the Open Society Foundation specifically for our Covid work.

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, and the resulting global protests highlighting longstanding concerns about structural racism and state violence, INQUEST's expertise in these areas and unique statistical analysis has been widely sought. Additionally, the Covid-19 public health crisis has once again highlighted the inadequacy of the government response to contentious deaths and raised legitimate questions about preventability and state accountability. Our evidence, built up over decades of casework and influencing on policy issues, has played a crucial role in informing NGOs, activists, parliamentarians, the media and wider stakeholders.

Our Families

Covid-19 triggered feelings of anxiety linked to existing trauma among families. Families also experienced severe disruption and delays to already protracted processes. Families tell us that they cannot properly grieve until they know the truth about how their loved one died, so these delays have a significant impact.

We know that Covid-19 has exacerbated the pre-existing physical, mental, and financial burdens associated with a bereavement and which are prevalent amongst the families INQUEST supports. Many of the post death rituals, such as funerals and gatherings, have been limited, and newly bereaved families have felt greater isolation in this period as the lockdowns impacted on their access to family and other support systems. Existing institutional family liaison processes have been limited and there has been an information vacuum in regard to the legal processes that follow. This has required sustained support and ongoing specialist advice from our team.

The killing of George Floyd and subsequent global protests have also shone a light on state violence and structural racism and have also renewed both trauma and drive for change from affected families. INQUEST, as a result, decided to refocus its annual priorities on four key projects: state violence/structural racism; Covid-19, mental health/learning disabilities and autism.

CASEWORK

INQUEST's casework service includes initial advice, referrals to lawyers and specialist organisations, and support for families throughout the investigation and inquest process.

Casework across settings and around England and Wales gives INQUEST a unique overview and insight across systems of care and detention.

Caseworkers also work closely to advise and support lawyers, and inform and contribute to policy and campaigns work, ensuring their knowledge and expertise is utilised for both individual cases and broader work for change.

In the reporting period, the casework team have worked on 1,065 cases, of which just under half were new cases. These cases involve police, prison, and mental health services. Overall:

- 30% involved mental health services
- 22% involved prisons
- 20% involved police

The other cases included those in immigration detention, care homes, or Grenfell. As well as cases involving clinical negligence, homicide, or multi-agency failures. This includes cases involving the premature deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism, in various contexts.

The majority of cases involve men (71%) but INQUEST also undertook focused work challenging the gender specific issues and experiences of women across different settings.

Over a quarter of cases (27%) involved deaths of people from Black, Asian and other racialised ethnic groups, who have long been overrepresented in contentious deaths.

One family member who received casework support from INQUEST told us:
"Thank you so much for all of the support and advice you have offered throughout the past year. Many of the things I have been involved in would have been made much harder or not even possible without your support and advice, often at very short notice. You really have no idea how much this meant to me and I am sure other families."

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

A key focus across all of our work is ensuring that family voices inform and shape it, including helping to build the services they want and need.

Beyond casework, family participation embeds long-term connection with bereaved people immediately after a person dies and in the months and years ahead.

While almost all members of staff engage with family participation work in some form, it has been coordinated and led by the Family Participation Officer with the support of six members of the Family Reference Group.

The INQUEST Family Reference Group is made up of people directly affected by a contentious death, and supports and contributes to our work from a family perspective.

The pillars of family participation at INQUEST are:

- Improving family experience of processes
- Family involvement with INQUEST
- Building connection and solidarity
- Promoting change to the wider system

In the reporting period, over 250 families directly engaged with family participation in various ways.

In this period of the pandemic it was an especially hard time for bereaved people – many of whom faced additional obstacles and challenges. Work to support and engage families was therefore particularly important and urgent. As such, there was a particular focus on building and increasing solidarity and connection among families, during an especially isolating time of lockdown.
In May 2020, a bi-monthly 'Connection Café' was established, which has proved so popular and valuable that it continues today on a monthly basis. This is an online meeting in which bereaved family members have a virtual space to come together.

It is a powerful and caring environment where people share their experiences of the grief, frustrations with the process, and discuss things that help them to cope with the long road towards the inquest and beyond.

One family member who has attended said, *"I found it supremely helpful, comforting and supportive so thank you to everyone who was instrumental in making these happen."*

Another said: *"I don't feel isolated anymore about what's happened. Emotionally or practically. I feel supported, heard and held. Gain from others experience. Good signposting for more support. It's a lifeline for me. Knowing every month just for a couple of hours I am with others who understand. This feeling continues outside of the sessions."*

In July 2020, the Family Reference Group established an online forum style space for families, using Facebook Groups. This is a closed group which allows for connection as and when families want and need. It is used for discussion of relevant issues, sharing general messages of support, as well as direct peer support with families answering others' questions on various parts of the processes that they have all been through or are going through, both formal investigation processes and personal grieving processes.

As well as the pandemic, the period saw an unprecedented uprising following the death of George Floyd at the hands of US police. We worked with the Family Participation Group to ensure the voices of families bereaved in similar circumstances in England and Wales were at the centre of INQUEST's response. This is further detailed below.

POLICY

INQUEST policy work includes our public facing work as well as internal research and work across the sector to challenge systemic issues and help inform practice and policy change, in order to prevent deaths and ensure systems respond as they should. All our policy and campaigns are informed by the experiences of families we work with and unique overview of the legal processes that follow.

In the reporting period the INQUEST policy team completed 20 formal briefings, written submissions and responses to national and international inquiries. These cut across a range of issues, including our priority areas of work over the period:

- **Responding to the impact of Covid-19**: Responding to specific concerns surrounding detention settings and the coronial system during the pandemic. Supporting family campaigners in calling for truth, justice and accountability during and following the pandemic.
- **Challenging structural racism:** Responding to the disproportionate number of deaths of people from racialised groups, particularly in the context of policing. Challenging thematic issues arising including disproportionate use of force and restraint, and systemic racism in policing and across the criminal justice system.
- **Legal Aid for Inquests:** Automatic non means tested legal aid funding for families' specialist legal representation immediately following a state related death to cover preparation and representation at the inquest and other legal processes.
- **A National Oversight Mechanism:** A new, independent, public body with a duty to collate, analyse and monitor recommendations and their implementation arising from post death investigations, inquiries and inquests.

COVID-19

As with all organisations in the period, from March 2020 our priority quickly and unexpectedly became responding to the arising situation with Covid-19 and the fast escalating risks and challenges facing our staff, the organisation, the families we support, and people in detention settings.

First and foremost, our priority was ensuring staff were kept safe and well, and time was spent most effectively on responding to the arising issues across our work. This inevitably meant a significant shift from our work plans, but led to important work which continues to have a positive impact today. Key activities included the following.

We quickly took action to reach out to families we work with and check in on their wellbeing, as well as to get an overview of key concerns for families going through the inquest process at this time. This led to a focus on building increasing solidarity and connection between families online (see the Family Participation section for more detail).

Our casework team closely monitored the situation and acted on arising issues, liaising with investigation bodies and the Chief Coroner's Office, and speaking with lawyers and bereaved families to provide much needed support and clarity.

INQUEST wrote to the Chief Coroner to raise concern about guidance issued to coroners advising that inquests into the deaths of frontline workers are not the place to discuss, for example, the adequacy of policies and arrangement for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE).

This letter noted, *"Instead of investigating these deaths fully, fearlessly and thoroughly, identifying the role of the State in failing frontline workers, the effect of your guidance is likely to stymie, limit and frustrate the investigations into the deaths of frontline workers from COVID-19."*

We shared our concerns with media including Channel 4 News, who followed this up with interviews with INQUEST and the son of Dr Peter Tun. There was an apparent lack of PPE on the ward he worked on, before he died from COVID-19, yet et a coroner refused to open an inquest into his death.

In January 2021, INQUEST wrote again to the Chief Coroner to raise concerns about the inconsistency in approach across coroner's courts in managing remote hearings during the pandemic. Despite guidance which allows for remote participation via video for those involved in an inquest, and audio access for members of the media and public, practice has varied.

Some families have had issues accessing their relative's inquest at all, while members of the media have effectively been barred from accessing some inquests even via remote audio. However, there are also examples of good practice which have positively increased the overall accessibility of inquests in other areas.

INQUEST collated and distributed additional resources for bereaved people from various relevant organisations, to ensure bereaved people could access the support they needed.

In April and May 2020, INQUEST became increasingly concerned about the lack of information available to bereaved families following a COVID-19 related death. We were uniquely placed to advise about the various investigations into possibly preventable deaths as a result of COVID-19. This includes deaths in custody, detention and other care settings, and the deaths of healthcare and key workers.

As such, we created a new online resource which provided answers to some of the immediate questions asked by bereaved families whose relatives had died from COVID-19 and included essential information about how to protect their rights.

We raised arising concerns with decision makers and reminded authorities of their human rights obligations to protect lives of those in the care of the state and to ensure ongoing external scrutiny and an effective investigation following any death in custody and detention.

On 23 March 2020, we published a detailed briefing setting out our immediate concerns around the pandemic and its impact on people held in custodial and mental health settings in light of highly restrictive regimes and increased isolation and being dependent on others for their treatment and care. This was broadly disseminated to ministers, parliamentarians, NGOs and others.

We put pressure on the government to ensure that people in places of detention were protected from the impact of the pandemic. For example in March 2020, INQUEST worked with the charity Women in Prison and brought together a coalition of over 600 charities, grassroots organisations and activists to demand the government drastically reduces the number of people in detention settings to save lives under the banner #Release2SaveLives. Over 220 people joined a *Twitter Storm* – asking the government to take urgent action. This reached over 117k people on the platform.

We responded to arising concerns through parliamentary processes and joint campaigning. In our submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry on *The Government's response to COVID-19: human rights implications* (September 2020), we exposed the retrogressive steps taken across detention settings, justified by the need to contain the spread of COVID-19 and how the government has failed to live up to human rights obligations.

In their final report of the inquiry, the committee put forward recommendations on policing, prisons and mental health detention, drawing from INQUEST's evidence. They also called for a 'swift review' and concluded that it is 'very likely' that a public inquiry will be needed in order to fulfil the State's obligations under Article 2.

INQUEST also briefed the **Council of Europe Committee for Prevention of Torture** in advance of their UK visit on issues relating to Covid-19 in detention.

We worked with Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice. INQUEST supported the inception of this family led campaign group, by advising them on their policy and lobbying work. We have been sharing with them our expertise on the investigation of contentious deaths and on statutory public inquiries. This is vital for justice truth and accountability, as well as its stated aim of using its learning to save lives. This campaign very much speaks to INQUEST's values and charity objectives. On an operational level, we advised them on their infrastructure and temporarily held significant grant funding on their behalf.

STRUCTURAL RACISM

The death of George Floyd at the hands of US police in May 2020 brought unprecedented attention to the issues arising from INQUEST's work and the experiences of bereaved families and a reminder that these issues were present in the UK. State violence and racism were at the centre of the subsequent resurgence and growth of the Black Lives Matter movement around the world. We were called upon and mobilised to respond.

INQUEST and the Family Reference Group issued messages of support and solidarity recognising the pain and trauma of those reliving these events and highlighting that these deaths are not isolated tragedies but part of a systemic problem and that deaths in custody are a global human rights issue.

INQUEST's priority was to ensure that family voices were elevated and numerous families took the opportunity to speak out in the media and at events. This included the families of Seni Lewis, Sean Rigg, Sheku Bayoh, Adrian McDonald, Rashan Charles, Edson da Costa, Cherry Groce, Mark Duggan, Kingsley Burrell and Clinton McCurbin and many others.

INQUEST were inundated with messages of support for our work and those families, with a significant increase in our audience across platforms and the donations we received. This was welcome and we continue to work to ensure that this is put to good use, through commissioning specific and ongoing work which focuses on challenging systemic racism and supporting Black families in their justice work.

INQUEST's longstanding statistical monitoring of deaths of Black people and people from other racialised groups in England and Wales was in extremely high demand, both for press and campaigners on social media, emphasising the importance of this resource and information which is not available elsewhere.

We published a joint letter **in solidarity with the family of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement**, which was signed by over 350 civil rights and civil liberties lawyers and campaigners have signed in support. It was written and coordinated by INQUEST, and members of the INQUEST Lawyers Group and signed by the Police Action Lawyers Group, United Families and Friends Campaign (UFFC) and our INQUEST Lawyers Group Steering Group.

The letter highlighted that, with the rise of racist and reactionary forces world-wide, now more than ever we must stand together to defend the right to freedom from state racism and state brutality, and the right to state accountability when those rights are violated.

We contributed to international scrutiny on the deaths of Black people in police contact. In January 2021, INQUEST submitted detailed evidence calling for international action on structural racism and the lack of accountability following deaths in police custody or contact in the UK and around the world. The evidence was for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for their report on systemic racism, violations of international human rights law against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies.

This helped to inform a damning report by United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, published in July 2021. It also led to opportunities for two families we work with to contribute directly to the final report, sharing their experiences and meeting with a group of families from around the world whose relatives had died in similar circumstances. The case of Kevin Clarke and words of his family were directly featured in this important report as a result of this work.

We worked with families to contribute to parliamentary scrutiny of the experiences of Black people, racism and human rights. Responding to the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry, INQUEST compiled evidence with family members of Black people who had died in police custody, prison or mental health settings.

They told us they felt disillusioned by the cyclical nature of reviews, reports and recommendations and the frustration that their experiences regrettably echoed those of families newly bereaved, despite the years between them.

In their final report in December 2020, the committee added to pressure on the Government to implement recommendations highlighted by INQUEST and the families as fundamental to addressing anti-Black racism and discrimination in policing and the criminal justice system.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Legal aid for inquests
A key aim of our work has always been to ensure families have access to justice, including through properly conducted inquests, investigations and legal processes which have family voices and needs at their heart. Central to this is legal aid for inquests, an issue on which INQUEST has campaigned for many years.

We want to ensure families have equality of arms throughout these processes, through automatic non-means tested publicly funded advice for bereaved people from the day of a death at all inquests involving the state and corporate bodies. This is the demand of our Now or Never! Legal Aid for Inquests campaign, launched in 2019.

In April 2020, following months of representations by INQUEST and INQUEST Lawyers Group Members, new regulations were introduced to allow for the backdating of the legal help waiver where granted. Previously the grant was effective from the date of the decision by the Legal Aid Agency (LAA). The LAA later confirmed it would use its discretion to backdate funding to the date the Legal Help waiver forms are signed.

This has had a significant impact for families and lawyers by ensuring early stage work is funded. It is welcomed progress whilst we continue the legal aid campaign, which had further successes later in 2021.

Public Authority (Accountability) Bill (*Hillsborough Law*)
Once again, our specific work on the Public Authority (Accountability) Bill (Hillsborough Law) was put on hold due to the trial of the police officers involved during the disaster and but resumed after the end of the trial later in 2021. Regardless of this, we have ensured that the issues this law flags up have been embedded in all our policy and campaign work. There has been significant lobbying work happening behind the scenes.

The justice system
In August 2020, a major and timely review by a groups of experts in the post death investigation, inquest and inquiry processes was published, *When Things Go Wrong: the response of the justice system*. INQUEST Director, Deborah Coles was part of the JUSTICE Working Party. It sat for a year and Deborah chaired a sub group on public engagement and the needs and experiences of bereaved people.

The report put forward 54 recommendations directed at remedying shortcomings of the present system of inquests and public inquiries. Such recommendations include INQUEST's longstanding calls for a national oversight mechanism, and non means tested legal aid for bereaved families.

Finally, our Director and a bereaved parent, Angela Pownall, gave oral evidence in Feb 2021 to what is believed to be the biggest legal aid inquiry ever conducted by a cross party group of MPs, the Westminster Commission on the Sustainability of Legal Aid- https://lapg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/The-Westminster-Commission-on-Legal-Aid_WEB.pdf. It recommended that Government Expand access to legal aid for bereaved families for inquests.

The Coroner Service inquiry
In July 2020, Parliament's Justice Committee launched an inquiry into The Coroner Service. This followed calls for scrutiny of the inquest system from INQUEST's policy team and other campaigners.

The coronial system is failing in its role to prevent future deaths and struggling to ensure bereaved families have access to justice. INQUEST evidenced these failings as part of our submission to this inquiry.

As well as providing a written submission, INQUEST brought together evidence from 51 bereaved families who shared their experiences with us. Families' testimonies offer the most powerful example of what changes to the Coroners Service are needed.

INQUEST Director, Deborah Coles and Andy McCulloch, father of Colette McCulloch, who died whilst in the care of mental health services, also gave oral evidence to the Justice Committee. We highlighted that now more than ever, as coroners struggle to respond to the high number of deaths arising from COVID-19 and increased delays in holding inquests, change is urgently needed.

The inquiry's report was published in May 2021, and reflected many of the key concerns raised in our evidence. The subsequent Government response announced a crucial change in the legal aid for inquests systems, a key aim of our campaign: the removal of the means test for Exceptional Case Funding. This was confirmed in December 2021, with the means test removed in January 2022.

This positive move means bereaved people facing Article 2 inquests will no longer face an intrusive and protracted means test application process. This demonstrates the impact of our work for change. However, there are still many families to whom this change does not apply and there is more to be done to reach our campaign goals and ensure families are supported more broadly across the system.

POLICE

In the reporting period, INQUEST has worked on over 200 active cases involving the police, directly supporting bereaved families. Seventy of these were new cases.

A key aim of our policy work, challenging the systemic issues arising from these deaths, has been continuing to push for the implementation of recommendations of the 2017 independent review by Dame Elish Angiolini QC of deaths and serious incidents in police custody in England and Wales.

In 2020, as in 2019, the Government failed to publish the promised progress report. We highlighted concerns in the media and worked with the families who contributed to the review to publicly challenge the slow progress. In July 2021 the Government did eventually publish a progress report, possibly as a result of this pressure, however they failed to answer fundamental questions and provide real transparency on the progress of each recommendation.

The October 2020 official statistics on deaths in police custody showed that the number of deaths in custody remain at the same level as ten years ago. At a time of concern about disproportionate and excessive policing, particularly of racialized communities, we still see a disturbing number of restraint related deaths. Mental health and intoxication also continue to feature too heavily. Our casework on police related deaths reveals the systemic failures to safeguard vulnerable people, the excessive use of force and neglect.

Excessive and dangerous use of police force was a key issue of the Angiolini review, and we continued to challenge this throughout the period.

For example, in April 2020, INQUEST joined the family of Marc Cole in speaking out as a coroner published a damming report to prevent future deaths on the use of Taser by police. The coroner called on the Home Office and the College of Policing to institute "a wholesale review of the effects of multiple Taser activations".

While these weapons are increasingly rolled out to more and more police officers, contentious deaths continue to demonstrate that these weapons are not in fact 'less lethal' as they are marketed to be.

As well as contributing to scrutiny of policing itself and supporting families through the processes, in January 2021 INQUEST and a member of our Lawyers group gave written and oral evidence to Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee for their inquiry of Police Conduct and Complaints. The focus was highlighting the continued barriers to accessing justice in the investigation and complaints process for families bereaved by deaths in police custody and contact. (At the time of writing, the report of this inquiry was still awaited.)

PRISONS

In the reporting period, INQUEST has worked on 234 active cases of deaths in prison, directly supporting bereaved families. Eighty-two of these were new cases.

INQUEST's casework and monitoring of investigations and inquests has continued to demonstrate that many deaths in prison are preventable and the result of neglect and systemic failings in care.

Over the year INQUEST has worked alongside the families of those who have died to ensure they can get to the truth about what happened to their relative. We continue to ensure that families voices are well represented in the media and that their deaths are situated within a wider social and political context.

INQUEST casework has long shown that an unacceptable number of so called "natural cause" deaths, as defined by the Ministry of Justice, are in fact the result of poor healthcare in prison. Our evidence shows that people are dying prematurely and unnecessarily. The impact of the pandemic on this issue has been hugely significant.

In November 2020, INQUEST coordinated the participation of 5 London families in the NHS England-commissioned research undertaken by Jackie Craissati at Psychological Approach on deaths of people in prison – how deaths occurred and their impact on families.

The death of Annelise Sanderson in December 2020 was the eighth in a women's prison that year. It reignited the calls for closure of women's prisons. Despite expressing a commitment to diverting more women from custody, the government announced 500 new prison places for women. We continue to challenge plans for prison expansion, including for women and children.

The isolation experienced in prisons is harmful to a child's long-term wellbeing and has worsened due to the pandemic. INQUEST joined Article 39 and a coalition of charities calling for the closure of child prisons in a new report. We were quoted in Children and Young People Now, *"Reform hasn't worked and doesn't work. This money must instead be reinvested in child-centred community services, youth clubs and holistic provision that prioritises support rather than punishment."*

A report by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture found damning evidence that prisoners were subject to unjustified violence inflicted by staff. Deborah Coles responded, *"That such systemic staff violence appears not to have been picked up by inspection and monitoring bodies raises serious concerns. The Government's indifferent and complacent response to abusive practices within prisons is telling. These disturbing findings require urgent parliamentary scrutiny."*

INQUEST, like many others, were dismayed at the lack of progress in releasing people from prison as we saw coronavirus continuing to spread and infect prisoners and staff, and with many prisoners and prison staff dying of Covid. We continued to call on the government to #Release2SaveLives (as detailed above).

INQUEST has raised our key concerns with parliamentarians to inform inquiries and debates. At Justice Questions in the House of Commons, David Lammy MP raised concerns about prisoners human rights and the impact of restrictive regimes. Lord Harris of Haringey and Lord Ramsbotham asked pertinent questions in the House of Lords about keeping families informed and the need for regular published figures on Covid-19 related deaths in prison. Such figures were initially ad hoc, but ultimately were published monthly with much greater oversight.

MENTAL HEALTH AND CARE SETTINGS

In the reporting period, INQUEST worked on 316 active cases involving deaths of people under the care of mental health services, primarily in detention, directly supporting bereaved families. Around 180 of these were new cases.

Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act - *Seni's Law*
In September 2020, INQUEST signed a letter to Nadine Dorries MP, who was Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety, calling for Seni's Law to be enacted immediately. We deemed unacceptable that, despite the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act being passed in 2018, it had not yet commenced. INQUEST campaigned alongside Seni Lewis' family and MP after his premature death following police restraint whilst a patient in a mental health unit.

The Act provides greater transparency and accountability on the use of force and restraint in mental health settings, requiring mental healthcare providers to keep records of their use of force. This was particularly urgent within the context of increased use of restraint in inpatient settings since COVID-19. After the reporting period, in December 2021, the guidance was eventually published. The law is due to commence in March 2022.

Essex inquiry
INQUEST briefed MPs in advance of a Westminster Hall debate on deaths in mental health care on 30 November 2020. Prompted by the tireless campaigning of family member Melanie Leahy, after the death of her son Matthew, and backed by over 105,000 signatures from across the country, this debate focussed much needed attention on the shameful failures in the systems of care for people with mental ill health. We highlighted our long-standing concern about the inadequacy of oversight of these settings and the absence of an independent investigatory body.

Families, supported by INQUEST, are calling for a statutory public inquiry into Essex mental health services, where we have seen failures repeated time and time again in the 28 cases we have worked on since 2013. Barbara Keeley MP and Catherine West MP quoted from our evidence in support of the call for a public inquiry.

It was of great disappointment that then minister Nadine Dorries MP did not listen to the calls from families, and announced an inquiry of limited scope and with no statutory powers to compel witnesses. Over 2,000 bereaved families have rejected her proposed inquiry as 'toothless'.

It would set a shameful precedent for you to proceed with establishing an inquiry that does not have the trust and confidence of the families who have already been so devastatingly failed by the services that should have kept their loved ones safe. Deborah Coles

In January 2021, a growing collective of families bereaved by deaths in Essex mental health services asked supporters to sign their petition to help secure a statutory public inquiry, rather than the inquiry planned by government. INQUEST stood with the families in the fight for justice.

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) scrutiny
INQUEST joined a number of bereaved families in calling for increased scrutiny on the high number of deaths of mental health patients under the care of TEWV. Families alongside their legal representatives are calling for a public inquiry, to run alongside the ongoing investigations into some of the deaths of young women in the now closed West Lane Hospital in Middlesbrough. See ITV coverage.

Learning disabilities
In the summer of 2020, the annual Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) was published. It is shocking that less than half of the deaths reported to LeDeR had been subject to a review (45%) and only 6% had received a full multi-agency review. Deaths of people with learning disabilities must receive full scrutiny, learning and accountability.

In October 2020, the inquest into the death of Joanna Bailey, 36, concluded with the jury finding she died from "natural causes" as a result of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). Whilst the coroner refused to permit the jury to consider Joanna's death was contributed to by neglect, the jury found 11 failings in her care. INQUEST told the Justice Gap *"Like many people with learning disabilities, Joanna's death was avoidable."*

Thomas Rawnsley, a young man with Down Syndrome and autism spectrum disorder died in February 2015. In response to the coroner's uncritical conclusion, INQUEST said *"Thomas' death is being dismissed as 'natural causes' is shocking when the family had raised a series of safeguarding concerns and that staff responsible for his care lacked training. Not to mention the many unanswered questions about the poor history of care and failings that were not allowed to be a part of the inquest."*

Covid-19 in mental health and learning disability settings

There was a shocking vacuum of information on the impact of the virus in mental health and learning disability settings. INQUEST were concerned to learn that the Care Quality Commission, who monitor deaths and inspect and regulate health services, only started asking whether people had died from Covid-19 on 9 April, two and a half weeks after the UK-wide lockdown.

In the spring of 2020, INQUEST continued to call for greater transparency around the deaths of people in mental health, learning disability and autism care settings amidst COVID-19, and for comprehensive data to understand the indirect impact on therapeutic services, the use of restraint, medication, seclusion and self-inflicted deaths.

Following combined pressure being brought to bear by INQUEST, campaigners, the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the media, the CQC and NHS began to publish regular information about the number of deaths of people in mental health learning disability and/or autism settings.

INQUEST are supporting calls for an independent inquiry into benefit related deaths to ensure the actions and inactions of the state face robust scrutiny, and for future deaths to be prevented.

In May 2020, the Chief Coroner's statistics show that the number of suicide conclusions at inquests had risen by 11 per cent compared with 2018. Deborah Coles told the Times *"Many of these deaths illustrate the impact of austerity and inequality and a historic underfunding of health and community services."*

GRENFELL

The delayed public inquiry resumed at the beginning of May but the prohibition of hundreds of survivors, families and residents from the venue as a result of strict social distancing rules left them questioning once again whether they are truly 'at the heart of the inquiry.'

In a submission by Leslie Thomas QC, a barrister representing bereaved families and survivors, he reminded the inquiry about the significance of race, poverty and disability and the responsibility of the inquiry to act. INQUEST published a statement on the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire.

In August 2020, INQUEST wrote to the Grenfell Inquiry Chair to ensure Phase One recommendations are acted upon given the worrying history of recommendations disappearing into the ether.

In December 2020 Grenfell Community Support Group and other campaigners gathered outside 10 Downing Street calling for justice for Grenfell. We were able to meet with and reconnected with Bereaved people, Residents and Survivors (BSR's), many of whom already had a relationship with INQUEST and the previous project coordinator. The gathering came as a response to the evidence heard from corporate bodies about their conduct during the refurbishment at Grenfell. There has been a lot of anger and upset in the community due to the evidence and refusal of some witnesses to attend. This was an invaluable opportunity to meet with and hear directly from people and understand the limited engagement over the previous months.

Due to the meeting in December and understanding that people were feeling able to reconnect with INQUEST from January 2021, we arranged a number of significant meetings with groups and individuals. We met with Grenfell United's Steering group, Justice 4 Grenfell and have had some contact with Grenfell Next of Kin, a recently established group of bereaved people from the Tower. There were a range of invaluable points made about their concerns with the inquiry, the criminal investigations and looking toward the future impact given the evidence coming out of the inquiry.

A significant issue has been the action following the recommendations from Phase One and anticipating the Phase 2 recommendations. People have expressed feelings of exhaustion, demotivation, and scepticism of what the Inquiry will change and how the relevant individuals and bodies will be held accountable. There is a lot of mistrust but also hopes that the evidence arising from Grenfell will have a positive impact.

INQUEST continued to campaign around the need for a National Oversight Mechanism to ensure recommendations arising from inquests and inquiries are acted upon. This is central to ensuring the Grenfell inquiry creates the change required.

SCOTLAND

INQUEST has been continuing a project looking at the systems for investigation and oversight of deaths in custody and detention in Scotland.

Sheku Bayoh was 31 years old when he died after being restrained by up to five police officers in May 2015, in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. Deborah Coles brought the expertise of INQUEST to help inform the broad terms of reference for the public inquiry into his death, including the role that race played in the lead up to and events following his death. The inquiry was only set up due to perseverance of the family, their lawyers and INQUEST.

In January 2021 the BBC aired a Panorama special titled *I Can't Breathe: Black and Dead in Custody*. The programme focused on the deaths of Black people in police custody across the UK. It looked in detail at the deaths of Kevin Clarke and Sheku Bayoh, as well as new evidence in the cases, and the challenges both families have faced in seeking justice.

INQUEST supported both families and worked with the BBC on the powerful documentary, including being interviewed. The documentary contains harrowing scenes with footage from CCTV and police body cameras, and questions about the impact of racism and stereotyping of Black men on their treatment by police. Learn more and watch the programme here.

Deborah has also attended numerous valuable meetings with stakeholders in Scotland, including with the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Scottish members of the National Preventive Mechanism, Scottish Government and Mental Welfare Commission Scotland.

There is clear support for our work and input across the sector, and numerous opportunities to impact including various relevant and timely reviews. We have also had feedback that the setting up of a Scottish equivalent of INQUEST would be welcome by many.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year INQUEST received income of £1,068,650 and incurred expenditure of £838,246 showing an overall surplus of £230,404. At 31 March 2021 general unrestricted reserves totalled £327,415 and restricted reserves were £nil.

Principal Funding Sources

Aside from the income generated from the Inquest Lawyers Group, sales of publications, donations from supporters and a modest amount of bank interest, the principal funding sources for the charity consists of grants; we are very grateful to all of our funders in this reporting year: The Big Lottery Fund, Henry Smith Charity, Bromley Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, City Bridge Trust, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Trust for London, Persula Foundation, A B Charitable Trust, Oak Foundation, Wates Foundation, Garden Court Chambers, Allen & Overy Foundation, Evan Cornish Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation, Open Society Foundation.

Our plan for growth and sustainability relies on a diversified range of income streams which ensures that we are never reliant on one source of income. In addition to increasing our grant funding, we will build on our growing reputation to raise funds through regular donations and high-level donors. Fundraising events are a way of both raising our public profile and drawing in new income, as well as running online campaigns.

Reserves Policy

The Board has reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Board believes that the charity should hold financial reserves because:

(i) it has no endowment funding and is entirely dependent for income upon donor funding from year to year which is inevitably subject to fluctuation; and

(ii) it requires protection against and the ability to continue operating despite catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The Board works to achieve a sufficient level of reserves to enable normal operating activities to continue over a period of three months, and to take into account potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. The Trustees maintain a continuous review of the organisation's financial position in order to ensure that the service can be maintained, and organisational strategic priorities achieved in spite of these challenges.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

In the context of our many priorities and funding commitments, and the significant new issues arising from COVID-19 and the massive visibility of our work since the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter global movement we decided to use a new approach. We established four project teams to focus specific work on priority areas where we have a significant role and/or there are major funding commitments. This is both in response to the current context and informed by our Strategic Plan. These will focus actions and ensure an integrated approach across the organisation.

Project 1: Deaths of Black people in police custody and detention: Challenging racism and discrimination across our work

We also recognise the impact of racism and discrimination in all areas of our work outside of custody and detention. This includes, for instance, Grenfell and Covid-19.

This coheres with, draws upon and extends several of the Key Projects 2018-2021 set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, namely:

- Deaths in police custody
- Women in Prison
- Deaths in Prison
- Children and Young People
- Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
- Grenfell
- International Work

It contributes towards achieving the following of the four key aims set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021:

- Access to justice for families
- Visibility with respect to all systems of care and detention
- An end to all institutionalised forms of racism and discrimination
- Accountability for institutional failings and failure to act.

Project 2: Access to Justice

This includes our work on Covid-19. It coheres with, draws upon and extends several of the Key Projects 2018-2021 set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, namely:

- Grenfell
- Post Hillsborough work
- International Work

It contributes towards achieving the following of the four key aims set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021:

- Access to justice for families
- Visibility with respect to all systems of care and detention
- An end to all institutionalised forms of racism and discrimination
- Accountability for institutional failings and failure to act.

Project 3: Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autism

This coheres with, draws upon and extends several of the Key Projects 2018-2021 set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, namely:

- Deaths in police custody
- Women in Prison
- Deaths in Prison
- Children and Young People
- Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, and Autism

It contributes towards achieving the following of the four key aims set out in INQUEST's Strategic Plan 2018-2021:

- Access to justice for families
- Visibility with respect to all systems of care and detention
- An end to all institutionalised forms of racism and discrimination
- Accountability for institutional failings and failure to act.

Project 4: Family Participation

Underpinning all our work is our commitment to supporting families to seek the truth and feel empowered to hold others to account and become self-advocates for systemic change. As such, we will develop and strengthen our work with families, building capacity and support through the inquest related processes. We will oversee the development of strong family networks across the country. Building on from our focus on family feedback and the work of the Family Reference Group, we will enhance, strengthen and develop their input and involvement into INQUEST's work and strategic development, and ensure they remain at the heart of our work. We will also strengthen and develop support and guidance for the families we work with.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1046650

Company registration number: 03054853

Registered and principal office: Unit T3
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees
The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Daniel Machover (Chair)
Geraldine Isherwood
Kevin Blowe
Ruth Bundey
Jennifer Nadel
Joe Sim
Stephen Tombs
Rajiv Menon
Sigrun Asa Danielsson
Pete Weatherby
Diane Newton
Patrick Williams (appointed 10 November 2021)

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2020 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary: Arnaud Vervoitte

Chief Executive Officer: Deborah Coles

Statutory Auditors: Barcant Beardon Limited
Chartered Accountants
8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

Banker: Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham B1 2HB

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

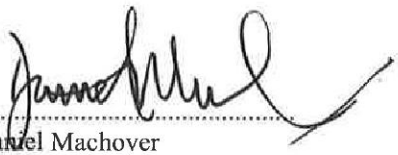
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Daniel Machover
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 22/3/22

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matter

The comparative financial statements are unaudited.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

25th March 2022

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	536,302	515,557	1,051,859	767,538
Charitable activities	3	-	11,059	11,059	15,781
Other trading activities	4	-	5,614	5,614	12,258
Investments	5	-	118	118	689
Total income and endowments		536,302	532,348	1,068,650	796,266
Expenditure on:					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	6	-	54,873	54,873	31,578
Charitable activities	7	536,302	247,071	783,373	812,828
Total expenditure		536,302	301,944	838,246	844,406
Net income/(expenditure)		-	230,404	230,404	(48,140)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		-	230,404	230,404	(48,140)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	97,011	97,011	145,151
Total funds carried forward		-	327,415	327,415	97,011

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	5,495	8,067
Current assets			
Debtors	15	27,390	48,592
Cash at bank and in hand		575,946	116,222
		603,336	164,814
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(281,416)	(75,870)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		321,920	88,944
Net assets		327,415	97,011
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	18	327,415	97,011
Total charity funds		327,415	97,011

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

GNisherwood

Geraldine Isherwood
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 21.3.22

The notes on pages 26 to 36 form part of these financial statements.
Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21.0	461,610	(107,274)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest income		118	689
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,004)	(3,758)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,886)	(3,069)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		459,724	(110,343)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		116,222	226,565
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		575,946	116,222
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in bank and in hand		575,946	116,222
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21.1	575,946	116,222

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years (previously 25% p.a. reducing balance)

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Income from Donations and Legacies	2021 £	2020 £
Gifts	228,818	54,284
Gift Aid tax reclaims	13,452	1,828
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted	15,000	-
Allen & Overy Foundation (Unrestricted)	5,000	-
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	20,000	-
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	70,057	41,250
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	100,000	75,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	110,703	116,797
John Ellerman Foundation (Unrestricted)	40,000	40,000
Grants from other sources (Restricted)	425,599	407,261
Memberships	23,230	31,118
	1,051,859	767,538

2.1 Income from donations and legacies was £1,051,859 (2020 - £767,528) of which £536,302 (2020 - £488,558) was attributable to restricted and £515,557 (2020 - £278,980) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3.0 Income from Charitable Activities	2021 £	2020 £
Income from consulting and training services	7,030	8,911
Income from publications	4,029	6,870
	11,059	15,781

3.1 Income from charitable activities was £11,059 (2020 - £15,781) of which £nil (2020 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £11,059 (2020 - £15,781) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4.0 Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Fundraising events	5,614	9,258
Sponsorships	-	3,000
	5,614	12,258

5.0 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Interest – bank	118	689

6.0 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Staff costs	51,855	31,279
Other fundraising costs	3,018	299
	54,873	31,578

7.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Charitable Activities 2021	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	130,051	19,371	149,422
Casework and other family support	550,392	82,184	632,576
Publications	1,375	-	1,375
	681,818	101,555	783,373

7.1 Charitable Activities 2020

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£
Project work	130,610	21,624	152,234
Casework and other family support	557,958	93,836	651,794
Publications	8,800	-	8,800
	697,368	115,460	812,828

7.2 Of the £783,373 expenditure in 2021 (2020 - £812,828), £536,302 (2020 - £508,558) was attributable to restricted funds and £247,071 (2020 - £304,270) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

8.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support	Governance costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Premises	55,417	-	55,417	66,026
Office running	11,886	-	11,886	16,273
Information technology	17,096	-	17,096	18,938
Finance	-	-	-	713
Legal and professional	301	-	301	312
Bookkeeping	2,479	-	2,479	2,395
Depreciation	4,576	-	4,576	5,469
Audit/Independent examination	-	9,800	9,800	4,600
Trustees' expenses	-	-	-	734
	91,755	9,800	101,555	115,460

9.0 *Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year*	2021 £	2020 £
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	9,800	-
Independent examiner's remuneration	-	4,600
Depreciation	4,576	5,469
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	48,400	52,800

10.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2020 – none). Travel costs amounting to £nil (2020 - £518) were reimbursed to no member (2020 – three members) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £nil (2020 - £24). No trustee (2020 – One trustee) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2020 - £192).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2020 – Nil).

11.0 *Analysis of Staff Costs*	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	576,474	574,556
Social security costs	53,809	54,399
Pensions	41,885	44,556
	672,168	673,511

11.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
	1	1

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £6,157 (2020 - £6,085).

11.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £263,558 (2020 - £228,628). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director, Head of Policy and Head of Casework (2020: Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Policy).

12.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 15.6 staff (2020: 18.2 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Direct charitable work	14.9	14.9

13.0 Taxation

As a charity, Inquest Charitable Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

14.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2020	21,887
Additions	2,004
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2021	23,891
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2020	13,820
Charge for the year	4,576
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2021	18,396
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2021	5,495
At 1 April 2020	8,067

15.0 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	4,035	12,175
Other debtors	1,340	40
Grants receivables and accrued income	15,000	29,848
Prepayments	7,015	6,529
	27,390	48,592

16.0 ***Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year***	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	4,428	1,833
Taxation and social security	16,034	15,164
Accruals	45,476	38,608
Other creditors	83,290	10,095
Deferred income (see note 17)	132,188	10,170
	281,416	75,870

16.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £4,791 (2020 - £9,876).

17.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total £
Balance as at 1 April 2020	10,170
Amount deferred in year	122,018
Balance as at 31 March 2021	132,188

18.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year	Balance 1 Apr 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2021 £
General funds	97,011	532,348	(301,944)	-	327,415

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2020 £
General funds	125,151	307,708	(335,848)	-	97,011

Name of unrestricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
General funds	The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

18.1 ***Restricted Funds – Current year***

	Balance 1 Apr 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2021 £
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	22,116	(22,116)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	71,717	(71,717)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	94,688	(94,688)	-	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	57,750	(57,750)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	110,703	(110,703)	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	49,328	(49,328)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	-	536,302	(536,302)	-	-

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2020 £
Access to Justice Foundation	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
A B Charitable Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	19,800	(19,800)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund	-	176,728	(176,728)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	54,400	(54,400)	-	-
Garden Court Chambers	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	55,500	(55,500)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	97,297	(97,297)	-	-
Trust for London	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	33,333	(33,333)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	20,000	488,558	(508,558)	-	-

Name of restricted fund	*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*
The Access to Justice Foundation	Casework data management
A B Charitable Trust	Core policy work
Barrow Cadbury Trust	Policy & influencing, family participation
National Lottery Community Fund (Big Lottery Fund)	England & Wales casework, family participation
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	London casework
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garden Court Chambers	Towards family activities
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
Open Society Foundation	Covid specific work
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Trust for London	Casework, policy and campaign work in London
Tudor Trust	Policy
Wates Foundation	Scotland Project

19.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	5,495	5,495
Cash at bank and in hand	122,018	453,928	575,946
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(122,018)	(132,008)	(254,026)
	-	327,415	327,415

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	8,067	8,067
Cash at bank and in hand	-	116,222	116,222
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(27,278)	(27,278)
	-	97,011	97,011

20.0 Operating Leases - Lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than one year	53,143	53,388
Later than one and not later than five years	167,200	211,543
More than five years	-	8,800
	220,343	273,731

21.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the year	230,404	(48,140)
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(118)	(689)
Depreciation	4,576	5,469
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	21,202	(22,634)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	205,546	(41,280)
	461,610	(107,274)

21.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 1 April 2020	Cash-flows	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	116,222	459,424	575,646

22.0 Related Party Transactions

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £5,500 (2020 - £4,050).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 10, donations and other income totalling £230 (2020 - £330) were receivable from trustees during the year.