

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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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

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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 identify 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.

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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 -

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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%).

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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.



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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.

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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 10th Sisters Inside international conference in Australia in November 2023. 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.

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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](#).

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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.

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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.

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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 INQUEST 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.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



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.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 Bunday
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

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 Caseworker
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;

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

-
- 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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 £
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
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		<u>610,478</u>	<u>535,666</u>	<u>1,146,144</u>	<u>1,150,608</u>
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
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		<u>620,878</u>	<u>632,751</u>	<u>1,253,629</u>	<u>1,118,335</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(10,400)	(97,085)	(107,485)	32,273
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<i>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</i>		(10,400)	(97,085)	(107,485)	32,273
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>10,400</u>	<u>197,608</u>	<u>208,008</u>	<u>175,735</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>100,523</u>	<u>100,523</u>	<u>208,008</u>

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

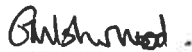
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Fixed assets</i>			
Tangible assets	15	10,286	13,042
<i>Current assets</i>			
Debtors	16	111,436	62,207
Cash at bank and in hand		311,655	443,141
		423,091	505,348
<i>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</i>	17	(332,854)	(310,382)
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>		90,237	194,966
<i>Net assets</i>		100,523	208,008
<i>Charity funds</i>			
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 £
<i>Cash flow from operating activities</i>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	(133,544)	265,299
<i>Cash flow from investing activities</i>			
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)
<i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>		(131,486)	260,517
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>		443,141	182,624
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>		311,655	443,141
<i>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</i>			
Cash in bank and in hand		311,655	443,141
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>	22.1	311,655	443,141

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4.0	<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>	2024 £	2023 £
	Income from consulting and training services	37,970	3,945
	Income from publications	4,634	4,305
	Income from grants	-	-
		<u>42,604</u>	<u>8,250</u>
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	<i>Income from Other Trading Activities</i>	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Fundraising events	<u>19,115</u>	<u>11,812</u>
6.0	<i>Income from Investments</i>	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Interest – bank	<u>6,122</u>	<u>2,957</u>
7.0	<i>Expenditure on Raising Funds</i>	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Staff costs	82,737	77,482
	Other fundraising costs	7,124	4,042
		<u>89,861</u>	<u>81,524</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>1,025,990</u>	<u>137,778</u>	<u>1,163,768</u>
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
	<u>915,874</u>	<u>120,937</u>	<u>1,036,811</u>

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
	<u>122,495</u>	<u>15,283</u>	<u>137,778</u>	<u>120,937</u>

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	<u>52,800</u>	<u>52,800</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>900,774</u>	<u>829,821</u>

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
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

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	<u>18.42</u>	<u>17.7</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 £
<i>Cost</i>	
At 1 April 2023	45,103
Additions	4,064
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	49,167
<i>Depreciation:</i>	
At 1 April 2023	32,061
Charge for the year	6,820
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	38,881
<i>Net Book Value:</i>	
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

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>332,854</u>	<u>310,382</u>

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
	<u>183,319</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2024	<u>183,319</u>

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

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

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

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

Name of unrestricted fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General funds The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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)	-	-
	<u>10,400</u>	<u>610,478</u>	<u>(620,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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)	-	-
	<u>45,900</u>	<u>611,996</u>	<u>(647,496)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,400</u>

Name of restricted fund

Baring Foundation
 Barrow Cadbury Trust
 National Lottery Community Fund
 City Bridge Trust (City of London)
 Evan Cornish Foundation
 Garden Court
 Henry Smith Charity
 Oak Foundation
 Open Society Foundation
 United Nations

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

change work around addressing structural racism.
 Policy & influencing, family participation
 England & Wales casework, family participation
 London casework
 Casework and policy work
 Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
 England & Wales Casework
 Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
 Covid specific work
 Casework

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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)
	<u>-</u>	<u>100,523</u>	<u>100,523</u>

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)
	<u>10,400</u>	<u>197,608</u>	<u>208,008</u>

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	-	-
	<u>61,600</u>	<u>114,400</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>(133,544)</u>	<u>265,299</u>

22.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

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

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.