

Peter Keith JONES - determination on 03.02.25

This has been an inquest on behalf of Our Sovereign Lord The King by me, Mary Elizabeth Hassell, Senior Coroner for Inner North London, touching the death of Peter Keith Jones who died on 5 November 2022 at Stoke Newington Police Station. The jury has made a narrative determination as follows.

“Peter Keith Jones died by suicide, by jumping from the hood of a telephone booth located inside Stoke Newington Police Station, on 5 November 2022. The official time of death was 18.55 hours. The official medical cause of death was:

1a) traumatic brain and spinal injury.

Before the incident occurred, from 8.07am that morning, Mr Jones displayed several behaviours as evidenced on CCTV.

- He attempted to climb the telephone box in the police station.
- He wrote a note on brown paper which later matched the suicide note found on his person.
- He checked the aforementioned note several times.
- He returned to the station after a cigarette, displaying behaviours that would have demonstrated stress such as:
 - rocking backwards and forwards;
 - talking to himself;
 - limping and hopping.

We conclude that if those actions had been seen, it is more likely than not that police would have taken action and would have prevented his suicide.

In addition, several police witnesses stated that if they had seen this behaviour they would have intervened at that time. We have observed the following failures that have materially contributed to Mr Jones's death.

- Without the presence of a flat telephone hood, there would have been no means for Mr Jones to take his life in this manner.
- Failure to have sufficient oversight of the public reception area of Stoke Newington Police Station which, if remedied, would have allowed police staff to observe Mr Jones's behaviour, leading to a positive intervention. This includes but is not limited to:
 - position of CCTV monitors out of the immediate line of sight of office staff in the rear office;
 - intermittent absence of police staff on the ground floor;
 - inadequate police staff stationed in “the box”, which is the area that faces out to the public reception area.

In conclusion, during his time at Stoke Newington Police Station, the CCTV shows that Mr Jones displayed sufficient behaviours to indicate that he was an immediate danger to himself which, if seen by police staff, would have resulted in action that probably would have prevented his death - in particular his earlier attempt to climb onto the telephone booth hood.”

I intend to make a prevention of future deaths report.