

Notes for Leon's Inquest

Leon's Inquest, was scheduled for 10 am on Tuesday 13 May 2014 and was to be held at Camley Street, London N1C 4PP. As the following notes clearly suggest this whole process was a complete travesty in nearly all respects not least because when Leon committed suicide he was supposed to be in a 'safe house' under the care of Camden NHS and the officials from Camden could not have been more obstructive if they had tried. I hope to write about this one day. In the meantime what follows is short note which I sent to Leon's sister-in-law as we tried to prepare for the Inquest.

Note dated 5 May 2014

Camden NHS have continued to be absolutely appalling. I finally received a paper copy of their so-called Report but as I have now marked it so heavily it is almost illegible. You can guess what I think of it! Their Chief Operating Officer has been promising me an electronic version since 1 April (I should have paid more attention to the date on that e-mail) but surprise, surprise nothing has come despite further promises, one as late as Friday afternoon! The moment I receive it (if I receive it) I shall forward it to you.

I have also been having real difficulties with the coroner's court because - guess what - Rodney Quilter the guy who was supposed to be my liaison officer has been off on long-term sick leave - poor guy - and of the two other people in the office one is also on long-term sick leave while the third person has resigned. Am I surprised that no body bothered to tell me any of this so my e-mails and phone calls have been disappearing into a great sink in the technological sky. Could they not have dragooned a few corpses to help out?

On Thursday I finally managed to speak with a very charming woman who made sure that my file was placed in front of Mrs Jo Bray on Friday morning (drafted in from Poplar) who in fact phoned me first thing and (I do believe succeeded above and beyond the call of duty) to get me some of the "witness" statements although for some reason not the Serious Incident Report from Camden NHS Trust.

I will need to speak with Jo Bray on Tuesday and try to get more clarification about the proceedings. And in case you want to speak with her in person her details are as follows -

Jo Bray, Coroners Officer, St. Pancras & Poplar Coroners Office.

Tel: 0207 974 4545 (St. Pancras) 0207 538 1201 (Poplar) –

I think she said that she would be in St Pancras on Tuesday but you could also e-mail her at Jo.Bray@camden.gov.uk

I have also been helped by Inquest and by the Coroner's Court Support Service. If you phone Inquest they will send you their booklet (0207 263 1111) which I received fairly quickly towards the end of last week and which I have found very helpful - full of useful information. As for the Coroner's Court Support Service I made contact with Beverly (07955 245955) and apart from giving me a lot of time explaining the whole process she has also promised to have somebody there on the day to metaphorically hold our hands. If you wanted specific information about the process then I suggest you phone her. It was quite an eye-opener in so far as she cautioned about possible expectations of the court and detailed what was and what was not likely to be relevant for the Inquest process. She suggested turning up about half an hour before hand - so as not to be hanging around for too long. The Coroner is Mary Hassell

Until I discover who is to be called as witnesses I cannot fully prepare myself but I am in the process of setting out my questions.