

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 5 May 2006

CRIMINAL TRIAL OF 10 WEST MIDLANDS POLICE OFFICERS

Monday 8 May 2006 10.30am
Leicester Crown Court, Wellington Street, Leicester.
The trial is expected to last six to eight weeks.

Mikey Powell was a 38 year old black man who died on 7 September 2003. This trial is the first opportunity that his family have had to try and ascertain what happened to him. None of the charges relate to causing his death. The family anticipate that an inquest into his death will be held soon.

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides specialist advice to bereaved people, lawyers, policy makers, the media and general public on contentious deaths and their investigation and campaigns for greater state accountability.

INQUEST has long standing concerns about the disproportionate number of black deaths in custody in contentious circumstances. This was an issue that INQUEST has raised at a national and international level, most recently with the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights as part of its inquiry into deaths in custody.

For more information and statistics on deaths in police and prison custody see www.inquest.org.uk

Notes to editors:

The Mikey Powell Campaign was launched by his family following his death. Mikey was 38 years old and a father of three young children. Mikey's death has had a profound effect on his extended family, particularly his children. The campaign is committed to ensuring that answers are found to the many questions surrounding his death. For more information see www.mikeypowell.campaign.org.uk

Family contact - Tippha Naphtali	0121 523 3408
Solicitor - Jane Deighton	office 020 7359 5700
INQUEST co director - Deborah Coles	office 020 7263 1111