

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 2020

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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# INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The trustees have adopted the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

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

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

### Core Activities

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

INQUESTS's casework priorities are deaths in:

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

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

## INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

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

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

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

### *Recruitment, Appointment and Induction*

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

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

As of 31 March 2020, INQUEST had eleven Trustees. The Trustees bring a broad range of highly relevant skills and knowledge from their backgrounds in human rights, academia, the law and organisational development together with strategic development and governance skills. The Trustees all have a strong commitment to social justice and equality.

### *Structure*

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

### *Remuneration of Staff*

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

## INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

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#### *Staff*

At 31st March 2020, the total staff number was 18:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director  
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director  
Rebecca Roberts, Head of Policy  
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework  
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker  
Jasmine Leng, Senior Caseworker, (appointed 3 February 2020)  
Natasha Thompson, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker  
Rezina Rai, Caseworker (appointed 26 March 2019)  
Theo Richardson-Gool, Caseworker (appointed 9 September 2019)  
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer  
Claire Campbell, Policy and Research Assistant  
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant  
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer  
Jennifer Edmunds, Administration Officer  
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer (appointed 8 April 2019)  
Bola Awogboro, Casework Assistant  
Yohanah Rodney, Casework Assistant (appointed 1 April 2019)  
Sarah Uncles, Communications and Policy Assistant

#### *Risk Management*

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

#### *Volunteers*

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

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

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

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

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### GENERAL

The year has presented INQUEST with many opportunities to share our support and expertise on contentious state related deaths and their investigation, at the national and international level. As the following chapters of this report illustrate, we have worked with an increasing number of families following a state related death, from deaths in custody and detention to those bereaved after the preventable fire in Grenfell Tower. Employing an integrated model, INQUEST brings together casework support, family participation, identification of thematic trends, statistics and analysis to feed into our organisation's work on campaigning, information sharing and policy and parliamentary work. Our aim is to improve learning and accountability, secure justice, and promote the rights of bereaved families, particularly those most prone to racism and discrimination.

As with so many other organisations, the beginning of 2020 presented a set of unparalleled challenges to INQUEST and its work, following the outbreak of Covid-19 in the UK. Our organisation adapted quickly and, with the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers and Trustees, as well as the support of our funders, we were able to carry on delivering our full range of services and adapt our operation quickly. Key to our considerations was the recognition of the impact of a pandemic on people experiencing a traumatic bereavement. You can read more about that work further down in this report.

### OUR ORGANISATION

Over the last year, our nine strong Casework Team have supported more families than ever before, and have worked on 1,343 cases. This includes 548 new cases and 795 cases carried into the year due to the protracted nature of the investigation and inquest processes. The rise in demand has been particularly evident in the number of mental health cases with casework comprising of 441 mental health (including 179 deaths in mental health settings), 354 in prison settings, 166 after police contact and 26 deaths in learning disability settings. We also sent 641 copies of our INQUEST handbooks out, a comprehensive guide to the inquest system a resource available to any bereaved person or support organisations even if not in our remit.

**Our Impact-** In the spring of 2019, INQUEST released [\*Evidencing Truth to Power. The Work and Impact of INQUEST – 2016 to 2018\*](#), our impact report which outlines the key activities and impact of our work in a period that has been a truly momentous time for INQUEST and the families we work with, with a policy landscape presenting formidable opportunities in the pursuit of our campaigning and advocacy aims.



Impact Report launch

In terms of **funding**, we secured several multiyear grants. This includes three-year grants, one from the Bromley Trust for policy, another from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust also for policy, a five-year grant from the City Bridge Trust for casework, and a two-year grant from the Wates Foundation for our Scotland project.



INQUEST and members of the ILG, Legal Walk 2019.

INQUEST has undergone staffing changes. Following the departure of one of our Senior Caseworkers over the summer, we have recruited a new Caseworker who started in September and a Senior Caseworker, who started in February 2020. In November of last year, the Head of Casework came into post and is working to develop team processes, structures and resources. This also means that INQUEST now has a four strong Senior Management Team steering the organisation and ensuring its strategic and operational plans are delivered, monitored and constantly reviewed.

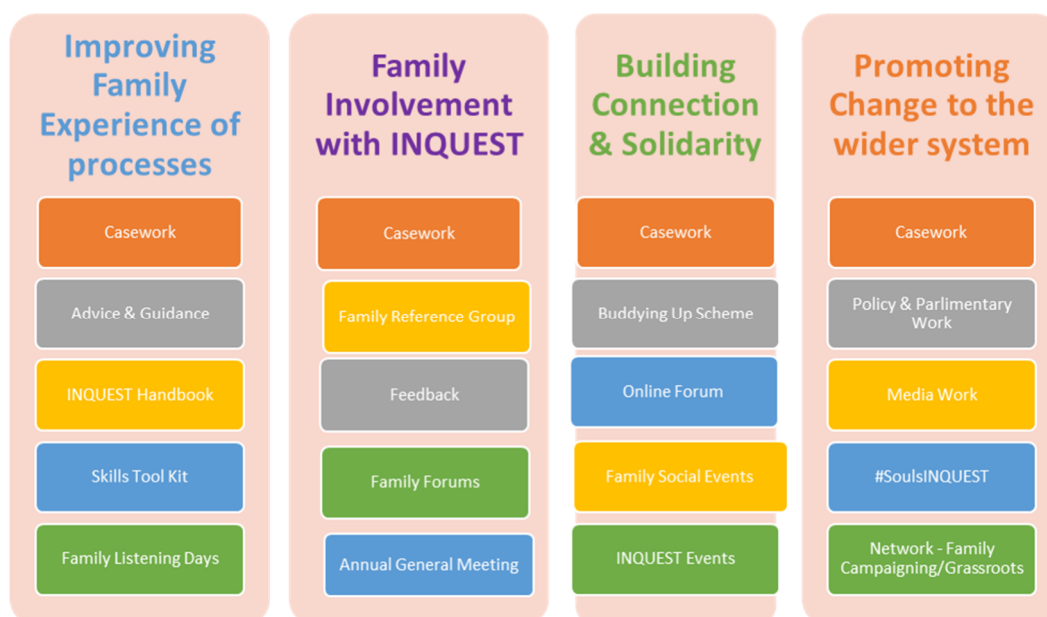
### **FAMILY PARTICIPATION WORK**

Our Family Participation work has gone from strength to strength, engaging many more families. Amplifying the voices of bereaved families and opening up space for families to share their experiences has always been core to our work. Over 2019, enabled through the role of the Family Participation Officer, there has been additional focus on embedding families' participation in the organisational processes at INQUEST and strengthening systems to support them in engaging in wider systemic change work. This has included the development of our Family Reference Group, the delivery of a family forum and our work on the #SoulsINQUEST a memorial photography project.

We also organised for arranged for group of 28 family members to attend parliamentary training in May. The training session was co-delivered by the Parliamentary Outreach Team and was effective in providing bereaved families with the knowledge and confidence to advocate for change.

In January 2020, INQUEST also organised for a panel of bereaved families to describe their experiences of inquests at a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) conference organised for lawyers who do representation at inquests, including government lawyers, other state/corporate lawyers and family lawyers. Deborah Coles, INQUEST's Director, opened a session with a talk about inequality of arms and resources, and the difficult position of families. She chaired a panel discussion with bereaved families talking about their experiences of the inquest process. The conference was attended by many officials, significant stakeholders, and the Legal Aid Minister.

Building on from our work, we have developed our understanding of the broad aspirations of our work on engaging and involving families, in order to improve communication and processes around this work, and developed the Four Pillars of Family Involvement at INQUEST:



We have strengthened our support services for families in light of the pandemic. This includes the Connection Café, a monthly online meeting bringing together families for the purpose of solidarity and peer support. It also includes the setting up and coordination of a closed Facebook group where families are able to support each other, share information and generally access online support when they need it.

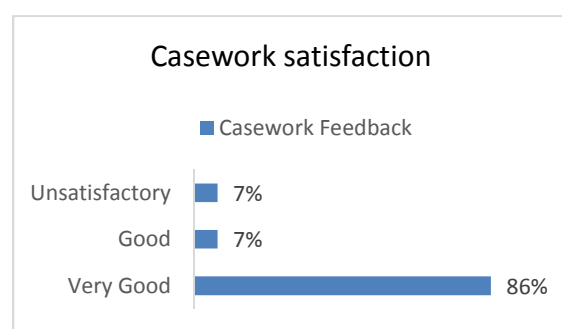


Family Reference Group meeting, Spring 2019



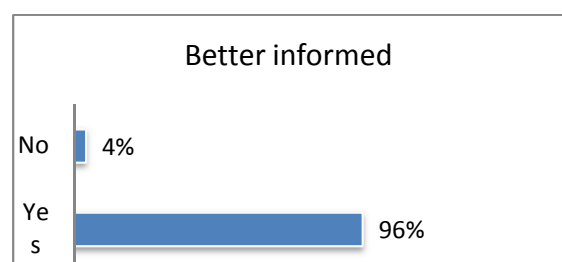
## FAMILY FEEDBACK

INQUEST aims to reduce isolation amongst families, to empower them through good advice and support, to equip families with the means to participate in the process of investigations and inquests with knowledge and information and to mutually support each other through a fraught and life changing experience. Family feedback suggests this has been achieved because of a coordinated casework and family participation relationship and directing families to appropriate activities.

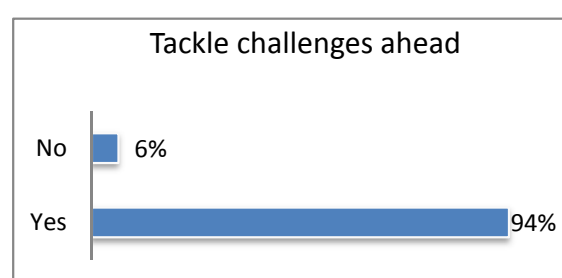


When asked how they rated the service delivered by their caseworkers, 93% of families stated it had been very good or good.

*“Our caseworker has been incredible; I just don’t know what we’d have done without her”.*

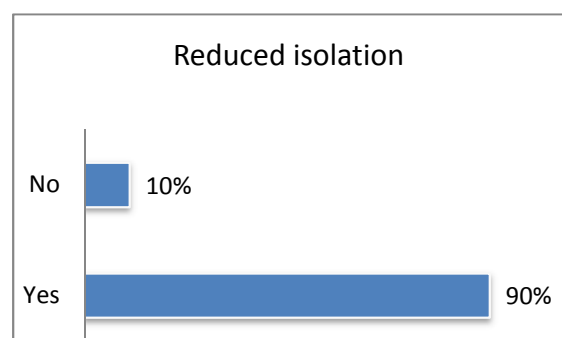


When asked if their experience of working with INQUEST had left them feeling better informed about the legal processes and what to expect at an inquest an overwhelming 96% of respondents said yes.



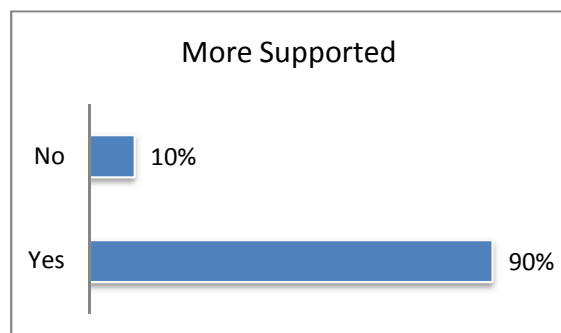
When asked if they felt more able to tackle the challenges ahead, families described feeling more able but also outlined additional benefits of working with INQUEST such as newfound personal strength,

*“I am starting my own business. I didn't think I could meet any expectations from an employer and now I will meet my own because of the support I received”.*



Families reported feeling less isolated,

*“From my initial conversation with INQUEST we as family felt less isolated. INQUEST listened. Our caseworker has been our rock and strength, just knowing she was there supporting us and recognising how we could fight to get the truth about the circumstances surrounding my brother's death. Supportive, informative, knowledgeable, friendly, empathetic, helpful and importantly honest”!*



Families felt more supported and described the negative impacts of trauma grief, bereavement, and anger during a period in which they were also required to undertake complex legal processes, investigations and inquests.

*“The information was crucial. From the minute I got in contact, they knew which path I had to take, and the course of action I needed to take. They gave me the strength I needed to carry on. We couldn't have done this without their support”.*

## PRISON WORK

Over the reporting period, we provided casework support to the families of 390 individuals who died in prison.

We have drawn attention to patterns of repeated failures arising from prison deaths and their broader context through our media and policy work and in our membership of the cross-government Ministerial Board on Deaths In Custody.

In April 2019, INQUEST joined a [united call](#) for the immediate closure of harmful child prisons. The [Guardian](#) supported this campaign. We also urged for bold action as historically high levels of deaths in prison continued and recorded levels of self-harm [broke new records](#). The government's focus on violence has distracted from the dismal reality of prisons where every four days a prisoner takes their own life. INQUEST was quoted in the [Guardian](#) following the release of these statistics.

In May 2019, The House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee [published the report](#) of their inquiry on prison provision. INQUEST submitted evidence on deaths in Welsh prisons and the Committee shared our concerns around safety, delays to investigations and inquests and provision for women. Read [our evidence](#). The same month, INQUEST [submitted evidence](#) to the UK Parliament's Justice Select Committee Inquiry into Prison Governance, highlighting evidence from our casework and monitoring.

In June 2019, INQUEST published a [update to our report](#), *Still Dying on the Inside*. It reported that there were 106 deaths in women's prisons since the 2007 Corston Review and between 2010-2018, 159 women died after leaving custody. INQUEST's work with bereaved families seeks to make visible the women behind the statistics and the structural issues behind their criminalisation and imprisonment. The report called on government to close women's prisons and redirect resources from criminal justice to welfare, health, housing and social care such as refuges and rape crisis centres, drug and alcohol support services, gender appropriate community services and small community based therapeutic centres. Following the death of a baby in Bronzefield Prison, Deborah Coles was interviewed on Radio 4 Woman's Hour.

We also [exposed](#) the failure of the MoJ's Ten Prisons Project, revealing that the number of deaths in the 10 prisons has increased by 20 percent, undermining claims of the 'success' of the £10m project to improve safety in prisons.

In July 2019, INQUEST responded to HM Inspectorate of Prisons annual report which highlighted that out of the 28 prisons inspected, 22 were found to be unsafe. Chief Inspector Peter Clarke said that the number of deaths in prison is a scandal and called for an independent inquiry into self-inflicted deaths. See article from [The Independent](#).

A meeting with the Chief Inspector of Prisons led to a Memorandum of Understanding between INQUEST and HMIP about sharing information and issues arising from our casework and monitoring which would help inform intelligence prior to prison inspections.

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Following a meeting with the Prison Reform Trust and PACT, INQUEST and a number of families bereaved after prison deaths contributed to the report [Keeping People Safe in Prison](#), published in October, contributing to press work and attending a roundtable with the Prison Service on the report's findings

In January 2020 INQUEST published [Deaths in prison: A national scandal](#), which provides unique insight into the dangers of imprisonment and makes strong recommendations to end deaths caused by unsafe systems of custody and detention. From an analysis of data, casework and inquest outcomes it showed how every four days a person takes their life in prison, and rising numbers of 'natural' and unclassified deaths, too often found to relate to serious failures in healthcare. With family testimony, case studies of deaths and inquest findings, the report tells the harrowing human stories behind the statistics. We held a roundtable with the Barrow Cadbury Trust and key organisations to share the report's findings. The report attracted a lot of press interest, such as this article in [The Independent](#).

### IMMIGRATION DETENTION

In June 2019, The High Court ordered a landmark Public Inquiry into immigration detention abuse in Brook House. INQUEST provided a detailed witness statement, to support lawyers in drawing attention to the limitations of the PPO and the need for public scrutiny of abuses at Brook House. Lawyers told us that our intervention had been hugely helpful in alerting the court to the inadequacy of normal PPO procedures and our statement was mentioned in the judgment. The abuse exposed at Brook House and wider harms across the detention estate highlight the human cost of UK immigration policies. INQUEST have supported a number of families whose relatives gave died because of shocking failings in treatment and care in immigration detention, including the family of [Prince Fosu](#) whose death in Harmondsworth immigration detention centre was found at the inquest in March 2020 to have been contributed to by neglect.

### POLICING

#### 40 years on, the death of Blair Peach

INQUEST's Deborah Coles went to Southall to remember Blair Peach, who was killed by police whilst protesting against the far-right National Front, and Gurdip Chagger, a schoolboy who was killed by racists in the same area. INQUEST joined other members of the community standing up against fascism, racism and state violence, including Celia Stubbs, partner of Blair Peach and a founding founder of INQUEST. Deborah also spoke at Liverpool John Moores University, reflecting on the events at Southall 40 years ago and the family campaigns that ignited the emergence of INQUEST.



Celia Stubbs and Deborah Coles

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In September 2019, The Independent Office for Police Conduct released their annual statistics on deaths during or following police contact. The majority of deaths within this period involved people with mental ill health, or who were intoxicated or had known alcohol and/or drug dependencies. INQUEST told the Guardian and Independent: *"The Angiolini review made pragmatic recommendations to ensure safer responses to people with mental ill health and addictions. Two years on, the government reports little progress in these areas"*. We have also held meetings with Marcia Rigg (sister of Sean Rigg) and the Metropolitan Police with a view to improve bereaved families experience and access to misconduct processes involving police officers.

#### **Challenges to police impunity and anonymity**

Anonymity orders have typically been granted for police officers following fatal shootings. However, INQUEST has observed a recent trend of anonymity applications being made and granted to police officers in other circumstances, such as where the death involved police restraint. This is disproportionately the case where the person who died is racialized as black.

A coroner's decision allowing 16 police officers to be screened from public view during an inquest into the death of Andrew Hall was overturned following judicial review in which INQUEST intervened. We gave a witness statement to the High Court, highlighting the benefit of bereaved families seeing key witnesses giving evidence at inquests, including enabling more trust in the investigation, having the opportunity to see and understand the body language of a witness, and seeing those involved in a death explaining their actions being held to account. The statement also highlighted the important role that open and transparent investigations can play in allowing public confidence in the process. We told the [Guardian](#): *"Anonymity goes against the spirit of an open and transparent investigation and hinders scrutiny of public officials."*

During this period there have also been a number of inquests into the deaths of Black men following police use of fatal force and restraint, reinforcing INQUEST concerns about the disproportionate number of Black men who die after contact with the police. These include the inquests into the deaths of [Edson Da Costa](#), [Nuno Cardoso](#) and [Mzee Mohammed Daley](#), who died in contact with police. Sadly, these inquests highlighted the ongoing challenges in securing truth and justice in these cases, as families were met with denial and defensiveness from police and the inquests made few criticisms, despite the critical evidence. INQUEST supported families in highlighting their concerns about the evidence in the media.

#### **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Over the course of 2019, the team at INQUEST have worked tirelessly to transform and politicise the investigation of contentious deaths and uphold the rights of bereaved people in the pursuit of truth, justice and accountability. From families bereaved after deaths in custody and detention to disasters like Hillsborough and Grenfell, it is their passion and determination, standing together in solidarity and building a community in the pursuit of accountability and meaningful change that has led us through this busy and challenging year.

The investigation of state related deaths and the inequality of arms confronting bereaved people has climbed up the political and media agenda this year. We have frequently been reminded of the important role that properly conducted inquests can have in scrutinising deaths involving the state. Yet, repeated recommendations from deaths across all state settings, and from phase one of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, has renewed attention around the failures to implement learning.

Our campaign for Legal Aid for Inquests has displayed the strength and persistence of families, lawyers and allies in pushing for an end to the injustice of unfair legal funding for families' representation at inquests. It gathered pace and attracted support from policy makers and parliamentarians, as well as from the general public ([Our petition](#) has been signed by over 97,000 people at the time of writing and has reached out to over 1,000,000 people via the 38 degreeed platform. Deborah Coles subsequently met with the successive ministers responsible for Legal Aid, Lucy Frazer, Edward Argar and Paul Maynard, to ensure the issue of Legal Aid for families at inquests remain at the forefront of

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the political agenda. We also hosted a series of meetings between the Ministry of Justice and members of the INQUEST Lawyer Group on the issue. We have also widely disseminated [our briefing](#), and built relationships with key parliamentary committees – JCHR, Justice Committee. We also reached out to other key stakeholders/influencers such as All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid, the Labour Shadow Cabinet, the Green Party, and the Liberal Democrats.



Legal Aid Campaign Launch, chaired by Bishop James Jones, House of Commons

We also secured a Westminster Hall Debate on Legal Aid for Inquests in April 2019. We briefed parliamentarians, shared case studies, invited families to contact their MPs. We released new Freedom of Information data on the day, which was mentioned [debate](#). Stephanie Peacock MP closed the debate with the following remarks; *“I thank the Minister for her comments, but they simply do not go far enough. Families do not choose to be part of the process. She has given no real explanation for the disappointing consultation. I will conclude by quoting INQUEST, which states: ‘Specialist legal representation and input from families is crucial to ensuring robust post-death investigations and inquests. Inquests must shine a light on any state failings’. I implore the Minister: please listen to INQUEST.”*

Working in partnership with families we also secured parliamentary questions, mentions at Prime Minister’s Questions, as well as support and interventions from the Justice Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. This has been supplemented by a constant stream of strategic media interventions arising from our casework and Freedom of Information Act requests. Working closely with a number of families and Julie’s Mental Health Foundation, this resulted in a [BBC File on 4 programme](#) about the lack of legal aid support for families.

We want to build on the strong foundation set over the last year and carry on much of the work above. Ahead of the General Election, we produced a summary of manifesto demands, informed by [our policy priorities](#).

We will now continue with the main focus of ‘Access to Justice’, an issue that unites all families that we work with, which brings together demands emerging from our previous and current work, including the drive to see the implementation of recommendations from the Dame Elish Angiolini review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody and Bishop James’s Hillsborough Review.

Our key policy objectives include:

- 1. Legal Aid for inquests.**
- 2. The creation of a National Oversight Mechanism** on state related deaths and arising recommendations.



**3. The reintroduction to Parliament of 'Hillsborough Law', or The Public Authority (Accountability) Bill, to establish a duty of candour on state authorities and officers and private entities.**

In the summer of 2019, Marcia Rigg, justice campaigner and sister of Sean Rigg, and INQUEST director Deborah Coles spoke at a Justice Alliance parliamentary event marking 70th anniversary of legal aid, explaining how vital it is for families to have #LegalAidforInquests.



Marcia Rigg and Deborah Coles

Deborah Coles was quoted in The Justice Gap *“Every review considering #LegalAidForInquests over the past 20 years has recommended this injustice be addressed. Government has failed spectacularly to confront the reality of the uneven playing field that exists.”*

## MENTAL HEALTH

Over the reporting period, we provided casework support to the families of 441 people who died as a result of mental ill health (including 179 deaths in mental health settings).

Following our work on the Amy El-Keria case with her mother Tania, a key member of our Family Reference Group (see previous report), the Priory Group were convicted of a breach of health and safety law and [fined £300k following death of Amy El-Keria](#). This is understood to be the first prosecution of its kind and was a historic moment in terms of accountability following deaths of children in private mental health settings. Amy, who was 14 years old and had multiple mental health diagnoses, died whilst a NHS funded patient in a specialist children's unit at a private mental health hospital run by the Priory Group. Tania El-Keria, Amy's mother, spoke to [Channel 4 News](#) *“What this prosecution and this guilty plea has done is maybe saved a life, and maybe future lives. And that's what I want to do in Amy's name.”* Tania was also interviewed by [many media outlets including Radio 4 Today](#) and BBC Breakfast. Victoria McNally of INQUEST was quoted in the [BBC](#). We also worked with the producers and were interviewed in an [ITV documentary](#) 'The Priory: Teenage Mental Health Uncovered' which revealed evidence of ongoing serious failures of care for teenage patients at the Priory high dependency mental health unit where Amy died.

Aji Lewis and INQUEST's Mo Mansfield, Family Participation Officer, gave a presentation on INQUEST Family Participation and the Mental Health (Use of Force) Act (Seni's Law) at the [Restraint Reduction Network Conference](#) in Bristol. Seni died following police restraint whilst healthcare staff looked on. Aji and Conrad, Seni's parents, were given awards for outstanding contributions to reducing restraint in the sector.

Melanie Leahy, mother of Matthew who died in a mental health unit in Essex, and Mo Mansfield also attended a parliamentary committee evidence hearing on the Public Health Services Ombudsman report [Missed Opportunities which lessons can be learned from failings at the North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust](#).

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We have met with parliamentarians to keep the issue of deaths in mental health settings on the political agenda and the continued lack of independent investigations and effective scrutiny. There are serious difficulties in ascertaining the number of these deaths in NHS and private health settings, with our specialist casework highlighting the failure of systems for monitoring, investigation, and oversight. We are working on research to inform a detailed policy briefing on deaths in mental health settings. Alongside our work supporting families of those who have died in mental health settings, we are currently collating and analyzing data gathered from Freedom of Information requests and other official sources.

In the summer of 2019, INQUEST Family Reference Group members, Aji Lewis, Anna Susianta, Marcia Rigg, Tania El-Keria and Family Participation Officer Mo Mansfield met with the Department of Health regarding the guidance and implementation of the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018, known as *Seni's Law*.

INQUEST produced a [briefing outlining our recommendations and demands around deaths in mental health settings to help inform a Westminster Hall Debate](#), held in November 2019. Steve Reed MP who INQUEST have worked closely with on *Seni's Law*, supported our call for independent investigations into deaths in mental health settings and legal aid:

*"I fully support [INQUEST's] demand for non-means-tested legal aid to be available to families at inquests, so that there is a level playing field between the bereaved family and the well-funded organisations accused of potential wrongdoing."* Steve Reed MP

INQUEST, with the support of bereaved families and specialist lawyers, is calling for:

- 1. An independent system of pre-inquest investigation** following deaths in mental health settings, equivalent to systems of investigation in other places of detention.
- 2. Legal aid for inquests through automatic non means tested public funding** for bereaved families, for specialist legal representation immediately following a death.
- 3. The creation of a national oversight mechanism** tasked with the duty to collate, analyse and monitor learning outcomes and their implementation arising out of deaths in custody and detention and other state related deaths.

Finally, we secured funding from the Three Guineas Trust which will provide us with three years of funding for our casework on mental health, learning disability and autism and a research project in partnership with Oxford University. Central to the project will be family engagement through a Family Listening Day and research, ongoing casework on individual cases and work with lawyers, NGOs, inspectorate and oversight bodies and policymakers, with a view to creating an opportunity for consultation and also sharing good practice on the research findings.

## LEARNING DISABILITIES & AUTISM

In May 2019, INQUEST responded to the annual Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) and the Care Quality Commission's review of restraint, prolonged seclusion and segregation for people with a mental health problem, a learning disability or autism. The reports [reveal preventable deaths and unsafe care of people with learning disabilities and autism](#).

Deborah Coles said: *"The findings of LeDeR and the CQC today add to the growing evidence of inadequate care, human rights abuses and needless incarceration of people with learning disabilities and autism. Yet we still see an unconscionable lack of political will and leadership to ensure action and systemic change."*



Sara Ryan, campaigner on the rights of people with learning disabilities and autism, said: *“These reports underline the barbaric and inhumane way people with learning disabilities and/or autism continue to be treated in this country. It is utterly shameful, and the government needs to stop hiding behind reports, consultations and inquiries and actually act.”*

Deborah and Sara were part of panel discussion on justice and human rights for people with mental ill health, learning disabilities and autism in the care system, alongside leading campaigner Mark Neary, and Jonathan Hurley from Advance SS as part of [Writing on the Wall festival](#) in Liverpool.

## GRENFELL



We have also carried on working closely with bereaved and survivors from the Grenfell Tower Fire, attending meetings, silent walks, memorials and speaking to families regularly. We chaired meetings of the Grenfell INQUEST Lawyers Group (lawyers who represent bereaved, survivors and residents) as well as liaising with other organisations who work on Grenfell. On 8th May 2019, INQUEST published [Family Reflections on Grenfell: No voice left unheard](#). The report was the result of the family consultation that took place in February 2019. Grenfell United said: *“This is the first time bereaved families have been brought together to document the impact of Grenfell in the harrowing days immediately after the fire. The report is a compelling piece of work we hope will contribute to much needed and lasting change to how we deal with disasters and disaster management.”* The report was sent to the Prime Minister and Public Inquiry team as well as parliamentarians and it received [widespread media coverage](#). The report concentrated on the aftermath of the fire and the process of Phase one of the inquiry and how it could be improved.

Our Grenfell Project Coordinator Remy Mohamed and Executive Director Deborah Coles attended a memorial Parliamentary briefing event with Grenfell United on 10 June 2019 where copies of the report were given to MPs. At the time of the two year anniversary of the preventable disaster, Executive Director Deb Coles wrote [a piece for The Guardian](#). This was about the lack of respect and meaningful participation that bereaved and survivors were experiencing in the Inquiry process. When the report Phase One of the Public Inquiry was released, INQUEST issued [a press release](#) calling for a National Oversight Mechanism to oversee and implement recommendations from all post death investigative processes. On the morning of the report’s publication Deborah Coles was interviewed on [the BBC Today Programme](#).

In October 2019, INQUEST produced [a briefing to inform parliamentary debates on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#) in the House of Commons and the House Lords. Joanna Cherry MP, Andy McDonald MP and Baroness Kidron spoke about the important recommendations made by INQUEST, including the need for a National Oversight Mechanism and for the reintroduction of the Public Authority (Accountability) Bill.



## INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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*“The lasting legacy of Hillsborough must be the public authority accountability bill (Hillsborough law), enforcing a duty of candour and equality of arms. This could help a move from defensiveness to transparency and change the legal landscape following contentious deaths, making it fairer, just and more equal”* wrote [INQUEST Director Deborah Coles and INQUEST Grenfell Project Coordinator Remy Mohamed in the Guardian](#).

#### SCOTLAND WORK

Our Scotland project looking at the investigation of deaths in custody in Scotland, overseen by Deborah Coles, has gone from strength to strength and has already had a significant impact in a very short space of time. Deborah has been working with the lawyers and family of Sheku Bayoh who died after restraint by Police Scotland officers. Following a meeting with the Scottish Justice Minister and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon the Scottish government announced the setting up of a public inquiry (see [media release](#), November 2019).



Nicola Sturgeon, Humza Yousaf, Sheku Bayoh's family, Aamer Anwar and Deborah Coles at November 2019 meeting

Deborah and Lucy McKay, INQUEST Policy and Communications Officer, attended and gave a presentation on INQUEST's work at roundtable Event on Deaths in Custody in Scotland in October, organised by Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research. This was an opportunity to meet academics and contacts interested in the work, hear from and build on relationships with three families bereaved after prison deaths.

Deborah has also attended numerous valuable meetings with stakeholders in Scotland, including with the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Scottish members of the National Preventive Mechanism, and Mental Welfare Commission Scotland who have commissioned a family listening day initially due in 2020, but postponed to 2021 because of Covid.

There is clear interest and support for our work and input across the sector, and numerous opportunities to impact including various relevant and timely reviews. We have also had feedback that the setting up of a Scottish equivalent of INQUEST would be welcome by many.

#### INQUEST in New York

In the spring of 2019, Deborah Coles was in New York City as part of our international work, scoping how different jurisdictions investigate state related deaths. She met with the UN special rapporteur on torture, academics, activists and NGO's including the American Civil Liberties Union to share knowledge and discuss deaths at the hands of the police, racial profiling and systemic issues of impunity within failing accountability mechanisms. She also met with women fighting against injustice for incarcerated women and for prison abolition.

In February 2020, INQUEST Director Deborah Coles was invited to give a presentation at the Beyond the Bars Conference the Centre for Justice at Colombia University. There were inspiring contributions from activists and academics, providing a timely look at strategies for decarceration and also how to develop a holistic and public health community response to those in mental health crises.

This also provided a welcome opportunity to meet with Debbie Kilroy, CEO of Sisters Inside Australia, and US abolitionists Ruthie Gilmore and Angela Davis to discuss our respective work.

## INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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*"We don't want reforms, we want something new, different modes of justice. We need to ask what kind of society do we need in order to root out the violence that the prison system pretends to address?"* Angela Davis



Angela Davis and Deborah Coles, New York City

Deborah also met with Vince Warren, CEO of the leading civil and human rights organisation, Center For Constitutional Rights, to discuss social and racial justice, state violence, investigations, advocacy and accountability. INQUEST and CCR look forward to building a working relationship moving forwards.

INQUEST gave evidence to the [UN Committee Against Torture](#), as part of their [periodic review](#) of the UK's compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Our evidence is a detailed dossier on deaths and ill treatment in prisons, mental health settings and police custody in the past six years. It is now available in full on our [website](#).

#### **INQUEST Lawyers Group**

We have carried on working closely with our INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG), organising meetings with key investigation bodies, the Chief Coroners, key seminars and conferences, and delivering training for them. They also contribute articles and case notes to our journal of the ILG, *Inquest Law* available to anyone with an interest in the coronial system.

#### **Launch of INQUEST Library Online**

INQUEST has launched its ground-breaking project, the INQUEST Library Online (ILO). ILO is a unique web-based searchable database of jury narrative conclusions and prevention of future deaths reports, collated and maintained by INQUEST. It also provides case law notes relating to inquests following a contentious death. Access to ILO is part of the benefits of ILG membership.

#### **COVID-19**

Our work plans were also of course deeply affected by the Coronavirus public health crisis, which has engulfed the country and affected all areas of our work, as the pandemic is affecting all areas of our work, in particular prisons, immigration detention and mental health settings. Our organisation has adapted quickly and has undertaken significant casework, family participation, policy and influencing work in order to ensure that human rights and safeguarding of people in detention are upheld and protected. This included a briefing, [Covid-19: Protecting People in Places of Custody and Detention](#), and a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) on the need to release people from places of custody and detention which secured the support of several hundred organisations. You can see a summary of our work on Covid-19 since the beginning of March 2020 on our [dedicated webpage](#).

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### ***Principal Funding Sources***

Aside from the income generated from the Inquest Lawyers Group, sales of publications, donations from supporters and a modest amount of bank interest, the principal funding sources for the charity consists of grants; we are very grateful to all of our funders in this reporting year: The Big Lottery Fund, Henry Smith Charity, Bromley Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, City Bridge Trust, Legal Education Foundation, the London Legal Support Trust, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Trust for London, Persula Foundation, Tudor Trust, Sigrid Rausing Foundation, A B Charitable Trust, Oak Foundation, Wates Foundation, Matrix Chambers, Garden Court Chambers.

Our plan for growth and sustainability relies on a diversified range of income streams which ensures that we are never reliant on one source of income. In addition to increasing our grant funding, we will build on our growing reputation to raise funds through regular donations and high-level donors. Fundraising events are a way of both raising our public profile and drawing in new income, as well as running online campaigns.

### ***Reserves Policy***

The Board has reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Board believes that the charity should hold financial reserves because:

- (i) it has no endowment funding and is entirely dependent for income upon donor funding from year to year which is inevitably subject to fluctuation; and
- (ii) it requires protection against and the ability to continue operating despite catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The Board works to achieve a sufficient level of reserves to enable normal operating activities to continue over a period of three months, and to take into account potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. The Trustees maintain a continuous review of the organisation's financial position in order to ensure that the service can be maintained, and organisational strategic priorities achieved in spite of these challenges.

## **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Our new here year strategic plan was launched in January 2018 and will lead INQUEST to its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. The changes we want to see 2018-2021:

### **Access to justice for families**

Between 2018 and 2021, INQUEST wants:

- Automatic non-means tested public funding for all bereaved families in state-related inquests as recommended by the Angiolini and Bishop's Reviews, the Bach Commission and the Chief Coroner's Annual Report;
- Stronger networks, tools, guidance and support for bereaved families so that they can achieve truth, justice and accountability, dignity, respect, justice and system change;
- Embedded and transparent structures of accountability across all state institutions and private providers.

### **Visibility with respect to all systems of care and detention**

As the only charity in the UK focusing on the investigation of contentious deaths, our oversight, expertise and casework mean that we are uniquely positioned to understand weaknesses, gaps and failings in the system – and to identify what needs to fundamentally change in order to prevent future deaths. Between 2018 and 2021, INQUEST wants:

- Private providers to be under the same scrutiny as public providers, with the long-term objective of removing private provision from state institutions;
- Accurate and public information to be readily available on all deaths in care and detention;
- Independent investigations of all deaths in mental health and learning disability cases;
- Minimisation of the use of force in custody and detention.

### **An end to all institutionalised forms of discrimination**

Between 2018 and 2021, INQUEST will work to ensure that:

- Institutional racism and sexism in state custody remain under close scrutiny;
- People with mental ill-health are kept safe and in therapeutic care;
- The inappropriate use of prison for women ends;
- There are, transparent, independent investigations around all deaths in mental health care and detention;
- Particular attention is given to the deaths of children, young people and women in mental health settings;
- LGBT people are protected when in the custody of the state;
- Older prisoners receive adequate care and treatment for the various issues that they face within state institutions.

### **Accountability for institutional failings and the failure to act**

Between 2018 and 2021, INQUEST wants to see:

- An independent, public body established, with the power to oversee recommendations arising from post death investigations and inquests;
- More prosecutions at an individual and corporate level in cases of institutional failure through the use of the Corporate Manslaughter Act and Health & Safety legislation;
- More individual sanctions for abuses of office.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

*Charity registration number:* 1046650

*Company registration number:* 03054853

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

*Directors and Trustees*

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

Daniel Machover (Chair)  
Geraldine Isherwood (Treasurer)  
Kevin Blowe  
Ruth Bunday  
Jennifer Nadel  
Joe Sim  
Stephen Tombs  
Rajiv Menon  
Sigrun Asa Danielsson  
Charlotte Stevens (resigned 22 January 2020)  
Pete Weatherby  
Diane Newton

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2019 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

*Chief Executive Officer:* Deborah Coles

*Independent examiner:* 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 2020

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*Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities*

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

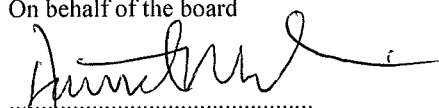
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the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

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

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

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

On behalf of the board



.....  
Daniel Machover  
Member of the Board of Trustees

24 March 2021

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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I report on the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2020, which are set out on pages 22 to 35.

### ***Responsibilities and Basis of Report***

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### ***Independent Examiner's Statement***

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

24 March 2021



Shu Fen Chung FCCA ACA  
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED  
Chartered Accountants

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 2020

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	2	488,558	278,980	767,538	753,457
Charitable activities	3	-	15,781	15,781	36,903
Other trading activities	4	-	12,258	12,258	32,894
Investments	5	-	689	689	700
Total income and endowments		<u>488,558</u>	<u>307,708</u>	<u>796,266</u>	<u>823,954</u>
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	6	-	31,578	31,578	31,104
Charitable activities	7	<u>508,558</u>	<u>304,270</u>	<u>812,828</u>	<u>793,028</u>
Total expenditure		<u>508,558</u>	<u>335,848</u>	<u>844,406</u>	<u>824,132</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(20,000)	(28,140)	(48,140)	(178)
Transfers between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</i>		(20,000)	(28,140)	(48,140)	(178)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>20,000</u>	<u>125,151</u>	<u>145,151</u>	<u>145,329</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>97,011</u>	<u>97,011</u>	<u>145,151</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 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<i>Fixed assets</i>	14	8,067	9,778
<i>Current assets</i>			
Debtors	15	48,592	25,958
Cash at bank and in hand		116,222	226,565
		164,814	252,523
<i>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</i>	16	(75,870)	(117,150)
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>		88,944	135,373
<i>Net assets</i>		97,011	145,151
<i>Charity funds</i>			
Restricted funds	18	-	20,000
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	18	97,011	125,151
Total charity funds		97,011	145,151


For the year ending 31 March 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

24 March 2021

The notes on pages 25 to 35 form part of these financial statements.  
 Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<i>Cash flow from operating activities</i>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21.0	<u>(107,274)</u>	<u>(39,815)</u>
<i>Cash flow from investing activities</i>			
Interest income		689	700
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(3,758)</u>	<u>(8,450)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(3,069)</u>	<u>(7,750)</u>
<i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>		<u>(110,343)</u>	<u>(47,565)</u>
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>		<u>226,565</u>	<u>274,130</u>
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>		<u><u>116,222</u></u>	<u><u>226,565</u></u>
<i>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</i>			
Cash in bank and in hand		<u>116,222</u>	<u>226,565</u>
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>	21.1	<u><u>116,222</u></u>	<u><u>226,565</u></u>

# INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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### **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 2020

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

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

#### *1.4 Expenditure recognition*

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

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

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

#### *1.5 Support costs allocation*

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

#### *1.6 Operating leases*

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

#### *1.7 Tangible fixed assets*

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

Office equipment	4 years (previously 25% p.a. reducing balance)
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#### *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 2020

#### 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.

<b>2.0 Income from Donations and Legacies</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gifts	54,284	50,758
Gift Aid tax reclaims	1,828	7,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	41,250	50,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	75,000	75,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	116,797	55,633
John Ellerman Foundation (Unrestricted)	40,000	40,000
Grants from other sources	407,261	448,576
Memberships	31,118	26,490
	<u>767,538</u>	<u>753,457</u>

2.1 Income from donations and legacies was £767,538 (2019 - £753,457) of which £488,558 (2019 - £479,209) was attributable to restricted and £278,980 (2019 - £274,248) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

<b>3.0 Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income from consulting and training services	8,911	17,183
Income from publications	6,870	2,560
Performance related grants	-	17,160
	<u>15,781</u>	<u>36,903</u>

3.1 Income from charitable activities was £15,781 (2019 - £36,903) of which £nil (2019 - £30,160) was attributable to restricted and £15,781 (2019 - £6,743) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

<b>4.0</b>	<b><i>Income from Other Trading Activities</i></b>	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £
	Fundraising events	9,258	32,894
	Sponsorships	3,000	-
		<u>12,258</u>	<u>32,894</u>
<b>5.0</b>	<b><i>Income from Investments</i></b>	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £
	Interest – bank	689	700
<b>6.0</b>	<b><i>Expenditure on Raising Funds</i></b>	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £
	Staff costs	31,279	30,563
	Other fundraising costs	299	541
		<u>31,578</u>	<u>31,104</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

**7.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

Charitable Activities 2020

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Project work	130,610	21,624	152,234
Support, Information and Advice Services	557,958	93,836	651,794
Publications	8,800	-	8,800
	<u>697,368</u>	<u>115,460</u>	<u>812,828</u>

**7.1 Charitable Activities 2019**

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Project work	85,646	15,118	100,764
Support, Information and Advice Services	581,788	103,864	685,652
Publications	6,612	-	6,612
	<u>674,046</u>	<u>118,982</u>	<u>793,028</u>

7.2 Of the £812,828 expenditure in 2020 (2019 - £793,028), £508,558 (2019 - £507,806) was attributable to restricted funds and £304,270 (2019 - £285,222) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

**8.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs**

	Support £	Governance costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Premises	66,026	-	66,026	62,775
Office running	16,273	-	16,273	14,712
Information technology	18,938	-	18,938	20,461
Finance	713	-	713	725
Legal and professional	312	-	312	4,225
Bookkeeping	2,395	-	2,395	3,714
Depreciation	5,469	-	5,469	7,146
Independent examination and accountancy	-	4,600	4,600	4,800
Trustees' expenses	-	734	734	424
	<u>110,126</u>	<u>5,334</u>	<u>115,460</u>	<u>118,982</u>

**9.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year**

	2020 £	2019 £
This is stated after charging:		
Independent examiner's remuneration	4,600	4,800
Depreciation	5,469	7,146
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	52,800	52,800
	<u></u>	<u></u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

**10.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses**

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2019 – none). Travel costs amounting to £518 (2019 - £330) were reimbursed to three (2019 – one) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £24 (2019 - £94). One trustee attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £192 (2019 - £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 (2019 – Nil).

**11.0 Analysis of Staff Costs**

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	574,556	547,205
Social security costs	54,399	51,904
Pensions	44,556	41,425
	<u>673,511</u>	<u>640,534</u>

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £6,085 (2019 - £11,172).

**11.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £228,628 (2019 - £202,320). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director, Head of Policy and Head of Casework (2019: Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Policy).**

**12.0 Staff Numbers**

The average monthly head count was 18.2 staff (2019: 18.5 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Direct charitable work	<u>14.9</u>	<u>14.8</u>



INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

**13.0 Taxation**

As a charity, Inquest Charitable Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

**14.0 Fixed Assets**

	Office Equipment £
<i>Cost</i>	
At 1 April 2019	50,320
Additions	3,758
Disposals	(32,191)
At 31 March 2020	21,887
<i>Depreciation:</i>	
At 1 April 2019	40,542
Charge for the year	5,469
Eliminated on disposals	(32,191)
At 31 March 2020	13,820
<i>Net Book Value:</i>	
At 31 March 2020	8,067
At 1 April 2019	9,778

**15.0 Debtors**

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	12,175	867
Other debtors	40	149
Grants receivables and accrued income	29,848	14,500
Prepayments	6,529	10,442
	48,592	25,958

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

<b>16.0 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	1,833	37,432
Taxation and social security	15,164	14,793
Accruals	38,608	26,815
Other creditors	10,095	4,777
Deferred income (see note 17)	10,170	33,333
	<u>75,870</u>	<u>117,150</u>

16.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £9,876 (2019 - £4,777).

**17.0 Deferred Income**

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

	Total £
Balance as at 1 April 2019	33,333
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(33,333)
Amount deferred in year	<u>10,170</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2020	<u>10,170</u>

**18.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds**

<b>Unrestricted Funds – Current Year</b>	Balance 1 Apr 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2020 £
General funds	<u>125,151</u>	<u>307,708</u>	<u>(335,848)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,011</u>

**Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year**

	Balance 1 Apr 2018 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2019 £
General Funds	<u>126,892</u>	<u>314,585</u>	<u>(316,326)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,151</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 2020

<b>18.1 Restricted Funds – Current year</b>	Balance 1 Apr 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2020 £
Access to Justice Foundation	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
A B Charitable Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	19,800	(19,800)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund	-	176,728	(176,728)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	54,400	(54,400)	-	-
Garden Court Chambers	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	55,500	(55,500)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	97,297	(97,297)	-	-
Trust for London	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	33,333	(33,333)	-	-
Wates Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>488,558</u>	<u>(508,558)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Restricted Funds – Previous Year**

	Balance 1 Apr 2018 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2019 £
Access to Justice Foundation	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Barrow Cadbury Trust	3,437	19,800	(23,237)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund	-	205,409	(205,409)	-	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	27,200	(27,200)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation	-	17,160	(17,160)	-	-
NHS	-	13,000	(13,000)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	55,633	(55,633)	-	-
Persula Foundation	-	47,000	(47,000)	-	-
Sigrid Rausing Trust	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	54,167	(54,167)	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
	<u>18,437</u>	<u>509,369</u>	<u>(507,806)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>

*Name of restricted fund*

The Access to Justice Foundation

A B Charitable Trust

Barrow Cadbury Trust

Big Lottery Fund

City Bridge Trust (City of London)

Evan Cornish Foundation

Garden Court Chambers

Henry Smith Charity

The Legal Education Foundation

NHS

Oak Foundation

*Description, nature and purposes of the fund*

Towards casework data management

Towards core cost of policy activities

Policy work

Towards the costs of a project: We are INQUEST- Strengthening family voice to achieve better outcomes

Towards the full-time salary and on-costs of a senior caseworker

Women in the Criminal Justice System

Towards family activities

Casework

Towards set up costs of web-based legal database for lawyers

Consultancy

Grenfell project and access to justice

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

<i>Name of restricted fund</i>	<i>Description, nature and purposes of the fund</i>
Persula Foundation	Research
Sigrid Rausing Trust	Towards international work
Trust for London	Towards the costs of cashwork, policy and campaign work in London
Tudor Trust	Policy
Wates Foundation	Scotland Project

**19.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year**

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	8,067	8,067
Cash at bank and in hand	-	116,222	116,222
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(27,278)	(27,278)
	<u>-</u>	<u>97,011</u>	<u>97,011</u>

**Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year**

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	9,778	9,778
Cash at bank and in hand	20,000	206,565	226,565
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(91,192)	(91,192)
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>125,151</u>	<u>145,151</u>

**20.0 Operating Leases - Lessee**

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than one year	53,388	53,388
Later than one and not later than five years	211,543	9,731
More than five years	8,800	-
	<u>273,731</u>	<u>63,119</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

**21.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities**

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the year	(48,140)	(178)
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(689)	(700)
Depreciation	5,469	7,146
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(22,634)	5,882
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(41,280)	(51,965)
	<u>(107,274)</u>	<u>(39,815)</u>

**21.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt**

	At 1 April 2019 £	Cash-flows £	At 31 March 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>226,565</u>	<u>(110,343)</u>	<u>116,222</u>

**22.0 Related Party Transactions**

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £4,050 (2019 - £7,950).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 10, donations and other income totalling £330 (2019 - £810) were receivable from trustees during the year.