

PRESS RELEASE

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Police officer fired following fatal restraint in hospital

PC Martyn Jones of Thames Valley Police was today found to have committed gross misconduct and dismissed in connection with the death of Brian Ringrose (24). A disciplinary panel found he had used “excessive force” during a prolonged restraint face down on the floor of the emergency department at Milton Keynes Hospital. This included forcing handcuffed Brian’s arms over his head, causing muscle tearing and hemorrhaging across both shoulders. Another TVP officer, PC Daniel Simson was also found to have committed gross misconduct relating to his role in the restraint, and he received a final written warning.

Brian Ringrose had been discharged into police custody whilst still semi-conscious from the overdose of prescription medication which had led to his admission. He did not appear capable of speech. His struggle while being held face down on the floor of the emergency department for a prolonged period, including while his arms were being pulled over his head, was nonetheless viewed by PC Jones and others as non-compliance, requiring forceful control.

Medical staff did not intervene.

Brian seems to have suffered a cardiac arrest while the police were strapping him into a flexible stretcher. They nonetheless carried him out of the hospital to a police van outside with the intention of delivering him to custody before realising he had stopped breathing. Although he was initially resuscitated Brian died a few days later, on 2 February 2021.

The IOPC investigated the death but declined to refer manslaughter charges to the CPS and the CPS decided that PC Jones should not be charged with assault either. Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Trust is conducting an investigation which has not yet concluded. An inquest will take place next March.

Carolynn Gallwey of Bhatt Murphy acts for Brian’s mother and sons.

Brian’s mother Mary Ringrose said this: *“It’s been a wait of over 3 and a half years to see someone held accountable for Brian’s death. Brian was a great son, father, brother, uncle and cousin and very much loved by all of us. We still have a long way to go in trying to make sure his death was not in vain, and that lessons will be learnt. We want people to say and remember his name: Brian Ringrose”.*

Carolynn Gallwey said this: *“This was a shocking and brutal police restraint, all the more so that it took place on the floor of a hospital with clinical staff looking on. It raises once again the question of why police officers so often persist in maintaining restraint in search of “compliance” ie acquiescence, from vulnerable people who are simply not able to oblige them in that. A new, and less dehumanising approach is needed.”*