

PRESS RELEASE

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Devastating inquest verdict finds Brian Ringrose was “unlawfully killed” by a police officer

Following an inquest lasting almost 6 weeks in which they heard distressing and difficult evidence, a Milton Keynes inquest jury has returned a highly detailed and exceptionally damning conclusion, finding that Brian Ringrose’s death amounted to manslaughter, contributed to by neglect on the part of both police and healthcare staff.

Brian Ringrose died on 2 February 2021 at age 24, following a period of prolonged face down restraint by Thames Valley Police officers on the floor of the emergency department at Milton Keynes Hospital. He had been admitted to hospital following an overdose of his prescription medication and an arrest. Hospital staff mistakenly informed police he had been discharged into their custody, with neither police nor hospital staff querying this even though Brian appeared semi-conscious and incapable of speech.

The restraint, during most of which Brian was pinned forcibly to the floor face down, lasted around 25 minutes. PC Daniel Simson strapped his legs and PC Martyn Jones handcuffed his wrists behind his back. PC Jones then forced Brian’s arms backwards over his head by the cuffs for most of the period of restraint, causing muscle tearing and hemorrhaging across both shoulders. One expert witness to the inquest described this technique as “a form of torture”. The jury found that this would have caused Brian “excruciating pain” and that the police officers present ought to have been aware of this. It was suggested that – far from struggling to escape – Brian had been fighting for his life. All of this was witnessed by hospital staff. None intervened.

Five police officers then strapped Brian into a flexible stretcher and carried him out to a police van, past hospital staff, notwithstanding that he had by then become non-responsive. Once in the van it was finally noticed that he was not breathing, but resuscitation attempts failed and life support was withdrawn several days later.

PC Jones was fired from Thames Valley Police in July 2024 for his use of “excessive force” and PC Simson received a final written warning. The IOPC investigated the death but declined to refer manslaughter charges to the CPS. The CPS decided that PC Jones should not even be charged with assault.

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

Brian’s mother Mary Ringrose said this: *“Brian was a great son, father, brother, uncle and cousin. He was funny and sweet and I miss him every day. We want to thank the jury for listening so carefully and respectfully to the shocking evidence of how he died, and for finally giving him some justice”.*

Carolynn Gallwey said this: *“This was a deeply shocking and brutal police restraint, all the more so given that it took place on the floor of a hospital with healthcare staff looking on but not intervening. This type of death should simply not still be occurring given that knowledge of the risks of restraint has supposedly been embedded in police training for many years, and Brian’s family will be asking the CPS to look again at criminal charges. The family were also astonished to learn today that Milton Keynes Hospital has still not addressed some of their most serious failings around Brian’s death. The family will continue to seek accountability.”*