



Harrow Court: 5

**Inquest into
Harrow Court
- Findings**

**Harrow Court
Inquest verdict**





INQUISITION

An Inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen

At The Old Courthouse, Hatfield in the county of Hertfordshire on the 8th day of February 2005
and by adjournment on 19th day of February 2007 At The Old Courthouse, Hatfield in the county of Hertfordshire
Before and by me Edward Gordon Thomas
Her Majesty's Coroner for District of Hertfordshire
The following matters were found

1. Name of Deceased

Natalie Elizabeth CLOSE

2. Injury or disease causing death

la **Inhalation of Smoke Fumes**

b

c

ll

3. Time, place and circumstances at or in which injury was sustained

Died 2/2/05 in first bedroom of Flat 85, 14th Floor, Harrow Court, Silam Road, Stevenage, Herts. after inhaling fumes from a fire caused by burning tea lights placed directly on a television set in that room.

4. Conclusion of the Coroner as to the death

Accidental Death

5. Particulars for the time being required by the Registration Acts to be registered concerning the death

(a) Date and place of birth 25 May 1972		Welwyn Garden City	
(b) Name and Surname of deceased Natalie Elizabeth CLOSE			
(c) Sex Female		(d) Maiden surname of woman who has married	
(e) Date and place of death Second February 2005 85 Harrow Court, Stevenage, Hertfordshire			
(f) Occupation and usual address ---			
472 York Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 4EW			

Signature of Her Majesty's Coroner **Edward Gordon Thomas**

Signature of Jurors (if present)

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INQUISITION

An Inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen

At The Old Courthouse, Hatfield in the county of Hertfordshire on the 7th day of February 2005
and by adjournment on 19th day of February 2007 At The Old Courthouse, Hatfield in the county of Hertfordshire
Before and by me Edward Gordon Thomas
Her Majesty's Coroner for District of Hertfordshire
The following matters were found

1. Name of Deceased

Michael Liam Brady MILLER

2. Injury or disease causing death

la **Acute Thermal Injury**

b

c

ll

3. Time, place and circumstances at or in which injury was sustained

See questionnaire attached.

4. Conclusion of the Jury as to the death

Narrative Verdict

5. Particulars for the time being required by the Registration Acts to be registered concerning the death

(a) Date and place of birth 30 September 1978 Hertford	
(b) Name and Surname of deceased Michael Liam Brady MILLER	
(c) Sex Male	(d) Maiden surname of woman who has married
(e) Date and place of death Second February 2005 Harrow Court, Stevenage, Hertfordshire	
(f) Occupation and usual address Firefighter 77 Featherstone Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire	

Signature of Her Majesty's Coroner **Edward Gordon Thomas**

Signature of Jurors (if present)

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MATTERS ON WHICH THE JURY SHOULD MAKE FINDINGS

1. The date and location of the fire; 2nd February 2005
FLAT 85, 14th FLOOR, HARROW COURT,
SILAH ROAD, STEVENAGE, HERTS SG1 1JT.

2. Why the smoke alarm in the flat was not working;
NO ELECTRICAL SUPPLY DUE TO NON PAYMENT TO
METER AND NO BATTERY BACK UP

3. Were the crews attending initially familiar with high rise procedures and the building?

IT WOULD SEEM FROM THE EVIDENCE HEARD THAT THEY WERE INITIALLY FAMILIAR WITH HIGH RISE PROCEDURES AND THE BUILDING.

4. The cause of the fire;

UNPROTECTED TEA LIGHTS PLACED DIRECTLY ON TELEVISION

5. How the padlocking of the dry risers came about;

IT HAD BEEN DISCLOSED AND AGREED BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES THAT THE DRY RISERS SHOULD BE PADLOCKED DUE TO VANDALISM.

6. The use by the crews of bolt croppers in the incident;

INITIALLY ONE SET OF BOLT CROPPERS WAS USED TO CUT THE DRY RISER PADLOCK ON THE GROUND FLOOR. THERE WAS A DELAY OF APPROX 3 1/2 MINUTES OF WATER SUPPLY DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF BOLT CROPPERS ON THE 14th FLOOR. TWO SETS OF BOLT CROPPERS WERE AVAILABLE FROM THE

7. The number of pumps and the roles of the personnel originally attending; OUTSET.

2. PUMPS

4 BA

1 BAECU

2 DRIVERS/PUMP OPERATORS

1 INITIAL INCIDENT COMMANDER (LFF)

1 INITIAL FORWARD COMMAND (T/LFF)

8. The stage in the incident that further resources were requested;

03. 07. 45 MAKE PUMPS 4

03. 15. 50 B.A. EMERGENCY

03. 20. 13 MAKE PUMPS 8. MAKE OFFICERS 4

9. Was a bridgehead established and, if so, when?

YES APPROX 03.24.45.

10. At what stage did fire firefighters Miller and Wornham enter the flat without hoses charged?

BETWEEN 03.05.20 - 03.06.31.

11. How was one of the occupants of the flat rescued?

RESCUED BY FIRE FIGHTER

12. Did the absence of a self-closing device on the door of Flat 85 contribute to the fire development:

(i) initially in the flat;

NO

(ii) in the lobby?

NO

13. Did the absence of a self-closing device on the door of Flat 85 deprive Jeff of protection from the fire while trying to escape through the lobby?

YES BUT WE BELIEVE THAT HIS INJURIES WERE FATAL

14. Where were all the deceased found, at what stage had they died and when were they found?

FOUND AS DESCRIBED ON PLAN 8

15. Did Mike and Jeff die of acute thermal injury?;

YES

16. In respect of each of them, where were they when they were exposed to that injury?

MICHAEL BEDROOM 1 FLAT 85

JEFFREY FLAT 85

17. Did Jeff have contact with the cables?

YES

18. If Jeff had contact with the cables, what contact was there?

CONTACT WITH HIS GLOVE AND B.A.

19. If Jeff had contact with the cables, when did it take place?;

WHEN HE REACHED LOBBY

20. If Jeff had contact with the cables, is it more likely than not that he would have survived but for the contact?

NO.