

SHERIFFDOM OF NORTH STRATHCLYDE AT GREENOCK

UNDER THE FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF

Patrick Lewis Tiffoney

SHERIFF'S DETERMINATION

GREENOCK 10th December 2008

The Sheriff, having considered the evidence led at the Inquiry,

Finds that in terms of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976
Section(6)(1)

- (a) Patrick Lewis Tiffoney, date of birth 3rd February 1962, was in legal custody in HM Prison Gateside, Old Inverkip Road, Greenock and died there in cell 3 /22 in Ailsa Hall on 10th September 2007 at 13:50hrs.
- (b) The cause of death was
 - i. 1a) Hanging.

Sheriff Rajni Swanney

NOTE:

I have made a formal finding in this case as there is little doubt from the evidence that the deceased took his own life by using a ligature to hang himself from his the upper bunk bed in cell 3/22. I heard evidence from a number of witnesses involved in the prison and medical authorities. I am satisfied that all of those involved in his welfare took the appropriate steps in relation to his care and that the procedures in place to identify possible self-harm and suicide risk are satisfactory. There was nothing that could have alerted the prison authorities that the deceased would take his own life. There is continual observation from all those involved in his supervision and care. Although he had attempted suicide before there is no suggestion that it was still being contemplated by him. I am satisfied that the Prison authorities and staff were aware he had not been in prison before. They were aware of his vulnerability. It is clear that they had appropriate procedures in place, which they followed, in relation to the emotional and physical wellbeing of Patrick Lewis Tiffoney. From the evidence I have heard, I am satisfied that there was nothing overt to suggest that he would take his own life. His demeanor, behaviour and participation in prison life suggested he was settling in to the prison routine. In the event however, although he may have been adjusting to prison life, for a reason that no one will ever know he decided that he no longer wished to face life. There is nothing practical which could have been done by the authorities to prevent this happening and for that reason I have restricted my decision to a formal finding