



Inquest opens into death of Hounslow student killed by punch during night out

An inquest into the death of a Hounslow student who died after being punched by a professional boxer began this Monday

Jagdip Randhawa died on October 17, 2011, five days after being felled by a blow from **Clifton Ty Mitchell** in Leeds during a night out.

Mitchell, then 21, of Derby, was jailed in 2012 for the manslaughter of the 19-year-old Leeds University, who was a former head boy at Cranford Community College.

An inquest at Wakefield Coroner's Court is due to consider whether possible failings by Derbyshire Police Service and Leeds NHS Hospital Trust may have contributed to the teenager's death.

The human rights group Liberty, which is representing Mr Randhawa's family said the inquest will take place before a jury and is scheduled to last for three weeks.

Huge crowds turned out to pay their respects at a memorial football tournament held at Mr Randhawa's former school in July.

Speaking at the inquest Mr Randhawa's sister **Majinder** made an emotional appeal for answers surrounding his death and told the jury that medical experts said her brother could have survived his injuries if it was not for



Jagdip Randhawa

what had happened at Leeds General Infirmary.

Frequently breaking down as she gave evidence, Ms Randhawa said her brother had been placed on the faulty ventilator for 46



Jagdip Randhawa's sister Manjinder with the organisers of a memorial football tournament held in her brother's honour

minutes, during which time alarms to alert staff to a problem sounded constantly. She said one doctor told the criminal trial it was the "worst level of care he had seen in his 27-year career".

Raj Desai, representing the family at the inquest, asked Ms Randhawa: "The expert evidence was that if it hadn't been for the ventilator, your brother could have survived?"

She replied: "He said what was a survivable injury was not survivable because of what happened at hospital."

The inquest also heard that Mitchell, whose bail conditions required him to live and sleep at his parents' address in Derby, had breached his bail on a number of occasions and was arrested in Leeds in the early hours of the morning after the fatal attack. Ms Randhawa said her brother, a keen American footballer, had just begun his second year of studying English at university in Leeds and want-

ed to be a writer. She said: "He was funny, really quick, confident, just a good guy. My brother was 19. We didn't get to see his 21st birthday. We didn't get to see him graduate. All the things parents would want for their children, my parents haven't got that any more. Our lives stopped when Jag died."

The inquest is expected to last for three weeks.

Ritu Sethi of The Sethi Partnership Solicitors shortlisted for Law Society award

The Sethi Partnership Solicitors are celebrating **Ritu Sethi**, pictured, being shortlisted for a Law Society Excellence Award in the Woman Lawyer of the Year category.

Ritu established The Sethi Partnership Solicitors in 1994 in West London and is a Senior Partner and Head of the Criminal Litigation Department.

"We are thrilled that Ritu was not only nominated, but has now been



chosen by a panel of senior legal experts. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on 20 October.

"The Excellence

This year we look forward to celebrating our senior partner being amongst those being recognised for their exceptional contributions and achievements" said Shreeti Rajdev.

The Sethi Partnership Solicitors based in The Barn House in Ruislip practices Commercial & Residential Property, Conveyancing & Leases, Commercial & Civil Litigation, Business / Corporate Matters, Matrimonial Disputes &

Nationwide Housing Advice is Drying Up



James de Vere Moss

The Law Society has helpfully compiled a heat map showing the availability of housing advice covered by Legal Aid in each town and city across the UK, using data provided by the Legal Aid Agency in March 2016. It has become apparent that, due to the cuts made to the legal aid budget in April 2013, the numbers of providers are set to diminish further.

In a more recent article, the Law Society has talked about 'legal aid deserts' to indicate the lack of availability of state funded housing advice in England and Wales.

Facing the scarce provision of legal aid housing advice, tenants may find it difficult to handle in relation to housing disrepair such as condensation dampness, claims against landlords, housing disrepair compensation claims. Often these cases can be very complicated and the local Environmental Health Officer may be contacted to provide an official report on the housing condition.

Tenants who wish to complain against their landlords or tenants who are facing harass-

ment from other tenants will often need to follow strict procedures. In some cases, the Housing Ombudsman will be involved.

When it comes to housing legal disputes, timing is often very important. In cases of possession, a housing provider will need to be contacted as soon as possible. It is advised that you seek a specialist Housing Solicitor as soon as possible.

When working with tenants, we find that the more time we have to prepare their case, the better the outcome can be for our clients. For instance, organise all the documentation before the meeting can allow to satisfy the Legal Aid Agency that you are financially eligible for legal aid.

About the author: James de Vere Moss

James is a Director in the Duncan Lewis Housing Department specialised in housing law covering landlord and tenant, possession actions, homelessness, illegal evictions, disrepair, neighbour disputes, property disputes and harassment. Duncan Lewis' housing team has been recognised by Legal 500 2015 Edition as a leading practice in social housing law matters and acknowledges Duncan Lewis for its "standout expertise in possession and unlawful eviction cases".



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