



# INQUISITION

An Inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen

At Coroner's Office in the County of Pembrokeshire on the 21st day of July 2009  
and by adjournment on 29th day of October 2009 At Coroner's Court in the County of Pembrokeshire  
Before and by me J.M. Layton  
Her Majesty's Deputy Coroner for Pembrokeshire  
The following matters were found

1. Name of Deceased

**Richard Anthony ROTHWELL**

2. Injury or disease causing death

la **Fractured Cervical Column**

b **Subdural Haematoma**

c

ii

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

4. Conclusion of the Coroner as to the death

*Self-inflicted multiple injuries as a result  
of a deliberate fall from a cliff*

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

(a) Date and place of birth <b>10 August 1961</b> <b>Enfield</b>	
(b) Name and Surname of deceased <b>Richard Anthony ROTHWELL</b>	
(c) Sex <b>Male</b>	(d) Maiden surname of woman who has married
(e) Date and place of death <b>Eighteenth July 2009</b> <b>Pwll Dert, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire</b>	
(f) Occupation and usual address <b>Teacher &amp; Community Initiative Company Director Husband of Pauline Jane GIBBARD,</b> <b>Student</b> <b>11, St Marks Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands</b>	

Signature of Her Majesty's Deputy Coroner ..... *J.M. Layton* ..... **J.M. Layton**

Signature of Jurors (if present)

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**CORONER'S CERTIFICATE AFTER INQUEST**  
furnished under section 11(7) of the Coroner's Act 1988

To be completed by Registrar

Register No.

Entry No.

To the **Pembrokeshire Registrars**

Registrar of Births and Deaths

Inquest held **on the Twenty - Ninth day of October 2009**  
at **Coroner's Court**  
Was a post-mortem held? **Yes**

**PART I PARTICULARS OF THE DECEASED (Not still-born - see separate form 99A)**

Date and place of death  
**Eighteenth July 2009**  
**Pwll Derl, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire**

Name and surname  
**Richard Anthony ROTHWELL**

Sex **Male**

Maiden surname of woman who has married

Date and place of birth  
**10th August 1961**  
**Enfield**

Occupation, and usual address  
**Teacher & Community Initiative Company Director Husband of Pauline Jane**  
**GIBBARD, Student**  
**11, St Marks Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands**

Cause of Death      **Ia    Fractured Cervical Column**  
  
                                 **b    Subdural Haematoma**  
  
                                 **c**  
  
                                 **II**

Verdict

**PART II VISITING FORCES**

The inquest was adjourned on

\* under section 7 of the Visting Forces Act 1952  
\* and has not been resumed

**PART III BURIAL/CREMATION**

I have issued **Burial Certificate**  
on **23 July 2009**  
to **J. Taylor**  
of **1-3 Russel Terrace, Lemington Spa, Warwickshire**

**PART IV MARITAL CONDITION etc. All persons aged 16 and over**

Insert appropriate Number in box. 1. Single    2. Married    3. Widowed    4. Divorced    5. Civil Partner  
6. Surviving Civil Partner    7. Civil Partnership Dissolved    8. Not Known

**2**

Enter date of birth of surviving spouse/civil partner

Day		Month		Year	
1	9	0	3	6	5

I certify that the findings of the inquest were as above

Date **29th October 2009**

Signed

Name **J.M. Layton**

Appointment **H.M. Deputy Coroner**

Jurisdiction **Pembrokeshire**

**General Report**

(This should include a clear and concise statement of the facts in narrative form and should include details of the finding and examination of the body).

Mr Richard Anthony ROTHWELL was 47 years of age having been born on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1961 at Enfield. He resided at 11, St Marks road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, with his wife. He has three children and was a Company Director of a Community Initiative Company. He would also teach in his spare time.

He had recently been concerned about a VAT inspection which was due, and it was causing him a great deal of stress.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009, his wife Mrs Pauline Gibbard, their son and a friend went to a festival in Taunton for a few days leaving him home alone.

At 0815 hours on the Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Mrs Gibbard received a text message from Mr Rothwell which caused her some concern. As a result she has made numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact him during the day.

He has also sent text messages to both his daughters the same day. They were also a cause for concern.

Mrs Gibbard has returned home at approx 1730 hours on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009, and found a handwritten note on the kitchen table. It was from Mr Rothwell stating that he had ended his life. (see statement) She immediately contacted the local police.

Mr Rothwell's car is known to have entered Pembrokeshire at approx 1150 hours on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

At 0930 hours on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009, a male walker on the coastal path near Pwllderi, North Pembrokeshire, discovered a bag, coat and a plastic cup containing a small amount of red wine on a bench on the edge of the cliff. He has then found an empty bottle of red wine and an umbrella approximately 30 yards further up from the bench near the cliff edge.

The content of the bag was examined by the walker Mr Mark Rooney, who found a handwritten message on the back of a business card. (attached) The instructions were to contact the police which Mr Rooney arranged.

Mr Rothwell's vehicle was recovered approx 1-2 miles away in a car park at Garn Fawr, Pwllderi. Another note has been found inside the car addressed to his mother. Its content showed a clear intention to end his life. (attached)

The Coastguard, Lifeboat and RAF Sea King helicopter have all attended at the area and conducted an extensive search for Mr Rothwell.

At 1335 hours on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Coastguard officers located him half way down the cliff face, directly below the point at which the umbrella and bottle of wine were found.

He was recovered to the top of the cliff by Coastguards where ROLE was implemented by Paramedics and life was pronounced extinct.

(Continue overleaf if necessary)

Statements of persons marked X are attached.

To: HM Coroner for Pembrokeshire

Result of Inquest