# Coroner criticises police over failure to contact key witness abroad in Jay Slater inquest



The investigation into the death of Jay Slater, a 19-year-old British apprentice bricklayer, continues to raise serious concerns about the handling of key witness testimonies. Following the opening of the inquest into his tragic death, it has emerged that Lucy Law, one of the last people to communicate with Jay before his disappearance in Tenerife, is currently on holiday in the very same location where he lost his life. The coroner, Dr James Adeley, expressed frustration during the hearing at Preston Coroner's Court, revealing that police have been unable to reach Ms Law and other critical witnesses despite attempts to make contact.

Ms Law, who was reportedly unaware of the inquest or the police’s interest in her testimony, was located by her family, who were also shocked to learn of the proceedings. Andy Davis, her stepfather, voiced his family's surprise, stating, “We had no idea Jay's inquest was even being held today.” This revelation sparked further questions from Slater's family regarding the police's inability to locate individuals who were supposedly missing. A family member noted that if they could find Ms Law quickly, it called into question law enforcement’s efforts to do the same.

The tragic narrative of Jay Slater's final hours adds a layer of complexity to the inquiry. After attending the NRG Festival in Playa de las Américas on June 16, 2024, he was last seen alive leaving an Airbnb in Masca, Tenerife, reportedly trying to make his way back to his accommodation after separating from friends. His phone communications revealed troubling signs; he called Ms Law stating he was lost and had a low battery, indicating a state of confusion and urgency. Furthermore, Jay was allegedly "off his head on drugs," which was supported by toxicology reports revealing traces of cocaine, ecstasy, and ketamine in his system.

Dr Adeley mentioned during the inquest that the presence of drugs often deters witnesses from coming forward, as they may fear legal ramifications. This was reflected in accounts from those who were with Jay, including a friend who remarked that he was in a euphoric state during their last encounter.

The investigation took a dark turn when Jay's body was discovered a month later in a mountainous area of the island. Preliminary autopsy results indicated he succumbed to traumatic head injuries from falling, a conclusion supported by the circumstance of his fall into a ravine. Dr Richard Shepherd, a forensic pathologist, clarified that the nature of the injuries suggested an accidental fall, ruling out any signs of assault prior to his death. He stated that the physical damage sustained would lead to immediate unconsciousness, allowing no chance of survival beyond that moment.

The discovery of Jay’s body also reignited distressing conspiracy theories that had emerged in the wake of his disappearance, which alleged involvement from a criminal cartel due to a supposed theft of a watch. His family firmly rejected these claims, stating they were unfounded and contributed to their anguish during an already harrowing time.

As the inquest unfolds, significant attention is also directed towards the witnesses who could shed light on Jay's final hours. Amidst this tense backdrop, it appears the challenges of locating and securing testimony from key witnesses like Lucy Law reflect broader issues within the investigation process. Police have reportedly struggled to trace several other contacts connected to Jay, leading to concerns about whether sufficient efforts have been made to gather all necessary evidence for a clear understanding of what transpired.

Furthermore, the inquest occurred within the shadow of another highly publicised case, that of Nicola Bulley, whose disappearance similarly captivated social media and the public eye. The contrasting approaches and challenges faced in these two very different investigations highlight ongoing concerns regarding police procedures and public engagement in crisis situations.

Ultimately, as the Slater family endeavours to make sense of their loss, they remain committed to uncovering the truth behind Jay's death, advocating for transparency and accountability in the investigatory process. The inquest's ongoing proceedings will likely continue to draw public attention as new details emerge, reflecting a community’s desire for clarity and justice.

**Reference Map:**1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3
2. Paragraph 4
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraphs 6, 7
5. Paragraphs 8, 9
6. Paragraph 10
7. Paragraph 11

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14736259/Jay-Slater-inquest-key-witness-holiday-Tenerife.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/16/jay-slater-body-autopsy-tenerife-identified> - The Guardian reports that the body found in Tenerife has been identified as that of missing British teenager Jay Slater. An autopsy confirmed the cause of death as trauma consistent with a fall in a rocky area. Slater's mother, Debbie Duncan, expressed her devastation over the news. The body was discovered near the village of Masca, where Slater had been last seen before his disappearance. The article provides details about the identification process and the family's reaction to the confirmation of his death.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-rescue-teams-find-remains-thought-be-missing-british-teenager-2024-07-15/> - Reuters reports that Spanish rescue teams have found human remains believed to be those of missing British teenager Jay Slater. The remains were discovered in the area where Slater's phone was last traced, near the Masca ravine in Tenerife. An autopsy is pending to confirm the identity and cause of death. The article details the search efforts and the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the remains, as well as the family's response to the news.
4. <https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/2024/07/16/jay-slaters-mother-says-our-hearts-are-broken-after-court-confirms-death-of-teenager/> - The Irish Times reports on the confirmation of Jay Slater's death by the Canary Islands High Court of Justice. The court used fingerprint technology to identify the body found near Masca in Tenerife. The post-mortem examination determined that the injuries sustained were consistent with an accidental fall. Slater's mother, Debbie Duncan, expressed her heartbreak over the news. The article provides insights into the legal proceedings and the family's emotional response to the confirmation of Slater's death.
5. <https://www.spainenglish.com/2024/07/16/body-found-in-search-for-jay-slater-in-tenerife/> - Spain in English reports on the discovery and identification of Jay Slater's body in Tenerife. The body was found in the Masca area, near where Slater had been last seen. Fingerprint analysis confirmed the identity, and the cause of death was determined to be consistent with a fall from a considerable height. The article includes statements from Slater's mother, Debbie Duncan, expressing her devastation over the news, and details about the search efforts that led to the discovery.
6. <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/jay-slater-major-identification-update-29550544> - The Manchester Evening News provides an update on the identification of Jay Slater's body. Officials in Tenerife stated that full identification and determination of the cause of death would take time, but documentation found with the body confirmed it belonged to Slater. The article discusses the ongoing investigation and the family's response to the news, highlighting the challenges in confirming the cause of death due to the condition of the body.
7. <https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/world-news/jay-slater-body-found-map-33313047> - The Irish Mirror reports on the identification of Jay Slater's body and the probable cause of death. Fingerprint analysis confirmed the body was that of Slater, and preliminary autopsy findings suggest he died from a fall or plunge from height, indicated by multiple broken bones. The article includes a map showing the location where Slater's body was found and provides details about the family's reaction to the news.