# Inquest into Jay Slater’s death descends into chaos as key witnesses fail to attend



An inquest intended to provide closure for the family of British teenager Jay Slater has devolved into a chaotic episode, further complicating an already tragic narrative. In Preston Coroner's Court, when Jay's family arrived for what should have been a pivotal moment in their grieving process, they discovered that none of the five key witnesses in his final hours were present. Senior coroner Dr James Adeley disclosed that attempts to contact these individuals had been met with silence, prompting a heartfelt plea from Jay's mother, Debbie Duncan: "We want these people in front of us... My son went on holiday and didn’t come back so there are questions we need to ask. Please."

Adding a layer of absurdity to an already difficult situation, it was revealed that one of the key witnesses, Lucy Law, was vacationing on the very island where Jay had died and had been unaware that her testimony was required. Her stepfather, Andy Davis, expressed disbelief, stating, "The police have only just been round today to say that she was due to give evidence. But it’s the first time we knew of it." This underscores a glaring disconnect in the arrangements surrounding the inquest, leading many to question the accountability and planning measures in place.

Jay Slater, a 19-year-old from Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire, had travelled to Tenerife to attend the New Rave Generation music festival. A night of festivities took a tragic turn when he got into a car with two men after leaving a nightclub at 5am. The circumstances surrounding his journey to the Casa Abuela Tina Airbnb remain murky; however, it is known that the following morning he attempted to navigate a treacherous 10-mile walk back to his hotel while suffering from dehydration and reportedly under the influence of drugs.

In a grim twist, at 8.30am, Jay called Lucy Law, revealing that his phone was nearly dead, he was lost, and in dire need of help. Tragically, this would be the last communication anyone would have with him. He was reported missing shortly thereafter, and it took a month for authorities to locate his body in the Juan Lopez ravine. The body was found in a state that made identification nearly impossible, but subsequent investigations confirmed that he sustained fatal head trauma from a fall.

The inquest did yield some significant findings. An autopsy confirmed the presence of cocaine, ketamine, and ecstasy in Jay's system, but there were no indications of foul play, as noted by Dr Richard Shepherd, the Home Office pathologist. He commented, "Nothing to suggest an assault, gripping, holding, nothing of that sort," laying to rest previous speculations surrounding a potential attack.

Though the inquest ended prematurely, it did highlight key gaps in the story of Jay’s last hours. Witnesses had not only been absent but had also reportedly dodged attempts for contact, which Dr Adeley suggested is not uncommon in cases involving drugs. He remarked, "When drugs are involved in a death, the witnesses are less than forthcoming and do not wish to speak to the authorities." This notion leaves the Slater family in a painful limbo, with their pressing need for answers overshadowed by the unresolved circumstances of Jay's demise.

As events unfold, the family remains hopeful but deeply frustrated. The absence of Lucy Law and others left lingering questions unanswered, intensifying the family's grief and sense of injustice. Until those who shared Jay's final hours - whether out of fear or reticence - are prepared to offer their accounts, it seems the Slater family will continue to navigate through a labyrinth of unanswered questions, longing for the closure they so desperately need.

In the face of tragedy, no detail is too small, and every voice matters, especially when grief shadows the pursuit of truth.

**Reference Map**1: Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8
2: Paragraph 3
3: Paragraph 3
4: Paragraph 3
5: Paragraph 3
6: Paragraph 3
7: Paragraph 4

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14738767/Jay-Slater-death-account-troubling-questions-Fred-Kelly.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 Spanish authorities confirmed the body found in Tenerife belonged to missing British teenager Jay Slater. An autopsy revealed injuries consistent with an accidental fall. Slater's mother, Debbie Duncan, expressed her heartbreak over the news. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15 in the Masca area. The article provides details about the search efforts and the confirmation of his identity through fingerprint tests.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-authorities-confirm-body-found-tenerife-is-missing-briton-jay-slater-2024-07-16/> - Reuters reports that Spanish authorities confirmed the body found in Tenerife was that of missing British teenager Jay Slater. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15. An autopsy indicated the cause of death was consistent with an accidental fall. Slater's mother, Debbie Duncan, expressed her heartbreak over the news. The article provides details about the search efforts and the confirmation of his identity through fingerprint tests.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckdgy27wyjlo> - BBC News reports that the mother of British teenager Jay Slater, whose body was found in Tenerife, expressed her heartbreak over the news. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15. An autopsy revealed injuries consistent with an accidental fall. The article provides details about the search efforts and the confirmation of his identity through fingerprint tests.
5. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1923968/jay-slater-autopsy-cause-of-death> - The Express reports that the cause of death for missing British teenager Jay Slater, whose body was found in Tenerife, has been revealed. An autopsy indicated the cause of death was consistent with an accidental fall. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15. The article provides details about the search efforts and the confirmation of his identity through fingerprint tests.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/jay-slater-body-found-in-tenerife-is-british-teenager-court-says-13178025> - Sky News reports that the body found in Tenerife was confirmed to be that of missing British teenager Jay Slater. An autopsy revealed injuries consistent with an accidental fall. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15. The article provides details about the search efforts and the confirmation of his identity through fingerprint tests.
7. <https://news.sky.com/story/jay-slater-hundreds-gather-for-funeral-of-british-teenager-who-died-in-tenerife-13194525> - Sky News reports that hundreds gathered for the funeral of British teenager Jay Slater, who died in Tenerife. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his body was discovered on July 15. The funeral service was described as a 'celebration' of his life, with mourners asked to wear something blue in his memory. The article provides details about the funeral and the tributes paid to Slater.