

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody  
Minutes of IAPDC meeting: 13 December 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Juliet Lyon - Chair**

John Wadham

Jenny Shaw

Jenny Talbot

Seena Fazel

Kish Hyde

Jecentha Shunmugam

Adrian Blake

Piers Barber

**Apologies:**

Deborah Coles

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**Item 1: Immigration detention**

1. John gave a background to the Brook House Inquiry and suggested its findings and recommendations should be discussed by the panel. He summarised the panel's involvement to date in lessons learned reviews after deaths in immigration removal centres (IRCs), which had started as part of the panel's response to the Home Office's request for expert insight to build on recommendations made by Stephen Shaw in his review. John invited views from panel colleagues on whether the IAPDC should continue to play a role as independent facilitator in these reviews.
2. In the discussion, panel members raised:
  - a. The positives of the reviews, including that they occurred soon after a death which meant learning could be considered prior to receiving the outcome of the PPO investigation or inquest.
  - b. The positives of panel member involvement in these reviews, including the benefit of having an independent facilitator present and the insight it provided to the panel on the issues involved in deaths in IRCs.
  - c. Issues with panel member involvement in the reviews, including that information provided beforehand was incomplete and the implications for the investigation process, including for bereaved families, which Deborah had raised in her comments on the papers prior to the meeting.
3. The panel concluded that the reviews should continue with an independent facilitator which the IAPDC could suggest, but that the panel should not continue to play a role. Juliet requested a short paper setting out the context to the reviews and proposed next steps that she could discuss in the new year with the Home Office.

**Action 1 - Secretariat to draft a short proposal on next steps on immigration learning lessons panels and share with panel to check agreement. Juliet to discuss proposal with Frances Hardy.**

## **Item 2: Preventing Future Deaths (PFD) reports**

4. Since March 2021 the secretariat have monitored the Chief Coroner's website for new custody-related Prevention of Future Deaths reports (PFDs) and distributed summaries to bespoke mailing lists, including officials, inspectorates and the IAPDC, for each place of detention. A central database with identified trends in distribution, cause and frequency was circulated with the papers.
5. The panel welcomed the work. In the discussion, panel members raised:
  - a. The variable quality of the reports, including how one recently raised a Matter of Concern and recommended a health measure which panel members questioned .
  - b. The fact that while the IAPDC should be copied into more reports as per the Chief Coroners' guidance, the panel needs a process for how to make best use of the PFDs they are copied into.
  - c. Concern around the report that identified a repeat issue from a previous report.
  - d. The need for a clear process for a thematic analysis, perhaps led by the Chief Coroner, and how the IAPDC could be involved in this.
  - e. The scope for convening and learning from coroners' roundtables
  - f. The importance of taking the opportunity to help improve the dissemination, quality and impact of these reports and so help to prevent future deaths
6. Piers highlighted that the work has increased attention on PFDs by partner organisations. For example it has prompted the CQC to scope a review into how they record and respond to 'natural cause' deaths.

**Action 2: Panel to discuss and develop a process for incorporating information from the PFD library to the PFD project at a project meeting.**

## **Item 3: Panel workstreams**

7. The panel reflected on achievements during 2021.
  - a. Seena mentioned the panel's representations to parliamentary Select Committees and the panel's media and communications work. The statistical bulletin had presented information in an important new way. The next report would benefit from complete data about average length of time spent in custody per setting and full information on the protected characteristics of those who have died.
  - b. Jenny Talbot mentioned letters to Ministers setting out issues and providing formal advice, especially on vaccinations, and engagement with the Magistrates Association on the rollout and take-up of Community Sentences with Treatment Requirements.
  - c. John mentioned the strategic police leadership work with Minister Malthouse and Police and Crime Commissioners, and the sampling exercise on PFDs.
  - d. Jenny Shaw mentioned taking a place at the Ministerial Board and meeting more frequently with co-sponsors, the information-gathering expert roundtable as a format for effective projects, finalising the natural deaths report and making good network connections with key partners.
  - e. Juliet mentioned the policing work, compassionate release reforms and immigration guidelines accepted by the Home Office.
  - f. The secretariat mentioned maintaining the COVID-19 hub on the website, delivering two stakeholder events, growing the Practitioner and Stakeholder Group list, work on the substance misuse-related deaths in prison report, the new panel newsletters, input into compassionate release policy, embedding of the safety impact assessment into HMPPS decision-making processes, the strength

of panel relationships with key partners, and delivery of the guidelines paper on preventing deaths in immigration removal centres.

**Action 3: Secretariat to ask for an update from Immigration Enforcement on implementing the new IAPDC guidelines on preventing deaths in immigration removal centres.**

**Item 4: IAPDC communications update**

*Secretary's note: This item was not discussed at the meeting. Following the meeting, Adrian re-sent the comms paper with questions for panel members to feed back on.*

**Action 4: Panel to feedback to Adrian on questions posed in the communications update before Christmas.**

**Item 5: Feedback from panel only meeting, minutes, actions and workplan tracking**

*Secretary's note: Juliet fed back from the panel only meeting the following day:*

8. Vaccinations: Panel discussed writing to the Health Secretary, Lord Chancellor, First Minister of Wales and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) about prioritising prisoners and staff for vaccinations and boosters. The panel asked about the status of vaccinations in immigration removal centres.

**Action 5: Panel to write to Health Secretary, Lord Chancellor, First Minister of Wales and Chair of SAGE about prioritising prisoners and staff for vaccinations and boosters.**

**Action 6: Juliet to ask Frances Hardy about vaccinations for detainees in immigration removal centres.**

9. Chair recruitment campaign: The panel asked for a discussion at the January 2022 meeting on the role and experience required of the new chair, the timing of the recruitment campaign and the people they think should be contacted when the advert goes out. Piers noted that the Chair criteria has been agreed by Juliet and the co-sponsors and has been submitted to No. 10. It could be shared with the panel when approved.

**Item 6: AOB**

10. John Wadham's farewell: The panel and secretariat thanked John for the substantial work he had delivered and for his dedication to the work of the IAPDC during his time on the panel.
11. 2022 panel meetings: Adrian reminded all panel members to provide him with their availability for panel meetings in 2022.

**Action 7: Panel to update Adrian on availability for 2022 meeting dates.**

**Date of next meeting: January 26th**

**Actions:**

- Action 1 - Secretariat to draft a short proposal on next steps on immigration learning lessons panels and share with panel to check agreement. Juliet to discuss proposal with Frances Hardy.
- Action 2: Panel to discuss and develop a process for incorporating information from the PFD library to the PFD project at a project meeting.
- Action 3: Secretariat to ask for an update from Immigration Enforcement on implementing the new IAPDC guidelines paper on preventing deaths in immigration removal centres.
- Action 4: Panel to feedback to Adrian on questions posed in the communications update before Christmas.
- Action 5: Panel to write to Health Secretary, Lord Chancellor, First Minister of Wales and Chair of SAGE about prioritising prisoners and staff for vaccinations and boosters.
- Action 6: Juliet to ask Frances Hardy about vaccinations for detainees in immigration removal centres.
- Action 7: Panel to update Adrian on availability for 2022 meeting dates.