



Ministry of
JUSTICE



Home Office



Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

IAP information sharing statement:

Proper management of healthcare needs and effective prevention of self-harm, suicide risk or harm to others requires information to be transferred smoothly across criminal justice agencies. This statement is designed to promote greater sharing of information while at the same time ensuring compliance with the relevant law.

The failure to share relevant information appropriately within the criminal justice system can lead to deaths or serious injuries. This in turn can lead to legal liability and/or serious reputational damage. There is a duty to consider information sharing where it is relevant to the identification of a risk of self harm/suicide, violence to others or an individual's healthcare needs. It is therefore important for staff within the criminal justice system to contact their line managers and/or legal teams if they are unsure whether information should be shared, rather than simply withholding it. Line managers or lawyers will be able to provide advice on whether information can be shared. The Data Protection Act 1998 does not prohibit the sharing of information, but requires it to be fair and lawful.