



Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

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For immediate release

On Monday 30 March, the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAP) issued this statement:

‘To meet its obligation to take active steps to protect lives, Government should embark without further delay on a programme of planned prison releases. This should be done on a cohort by cohort, case by case basis.

Ministers and officials are faced with some of the most difficult decisions they have ever had to make about balance of risk and the best ways to keep people safe.

The priority now is to reserve prison for serious and violent offenders so that the public is not put at risk and hard-pressed prison staff have the physical space and time to hold those individuals safely and securely.

In an unprecedented public health crisis, it is not fair or proportionate to commit prisoners, and staff responsible for them, to try to survive in insanitary, overcrowded institutions devoid currently of independent oversight.

People are sent to prison to lose their liberty not their lives.’

Further information and newly published correspondence

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