



Ministry
of Justice



Home Office



Department
of Health &
Social Care

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAP meeting – 15 December 2020**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

John Wadham

Jenny Shaw

Jenny Talbot

Deborah Coles

Piers Barber

Kish Hyde

Adrian Blake

Graham Randall

Apologies:

Seena Fazel

Item 1: Secretariat update

1. Juliet welcomed everyone and invited Piers to provide any updates from the Secretariat:

Prisons

- With support from Jenny Shaw and Seena, the IAP provided a paper on recent IAP work concerning female self-harm to the HMPPS Independent Advisory Forum held on 14 December.
- The Secretariat have been collating responses from Jenny Talbot and Jenny Shaw and their colleagues to the HMIP Women's Expectations consultation. Deborah and Juliet asked if they could also contribute before the deadline of 31 December. The Secretariat assured the panel that they would also provide a cover email highlighting the points made within the document.
- Graham has shared requested data relating to the use of Compassionate Release and will continue to examine its implications further.
- Jenny S, Seena, Adrian and Piers are meeting on Friday to discuss the self-harm seminar.
- Piers reminded the IAP that the policy team developing the new version of ACCT have asked for any comments back for the end of this week as the guidance will be distributed in the new year. Deborah has shared the material with Family Participation team at INQUEST to provide their insight. Jenny Shaw highlighted that the documents are lengthy so it might be

pertinent for individual IAP members to focus on specific parts each. Jenny Talbot agreed that the papers are numerous but warned against that process leading to a lack of cohesive comments as all members bring their own thoughts. Juliet informed the panel that she had received a further prisoner letter this month highlighting issues with ACCT and how the very nature of being on an ACCT spotlights an individual as vulnerable on the wing.

- Deborah raised the recent inspectorate joint report which highlighted concerns at Rainsbrook STC and spoke about the wider issues of how private companies who run institutions are held to account. John highlighted that this is a regular issue following Ofsted and CQC reports. Deborah asked if this could be made a priority for next year.

Health

- Seena is due to meet the stats leads at the CQC in January to discuss issues he has identified with data they shared with the IAP.

Immigration

- John and Juliet are meeting the Director of Clandestine Threat Command on Wednesday. John explained the purpose of the meeting was to reference the IAP, its aims and to form relationships to help protect lives. He highlighted that the definition of being detained having been rescued at sea is complicated. There is a separate issue about where people are put when they reach shore, but scrutiny of this appears to be covered by HIMP and IMBs.
- Juliet and John arranged to meet prior to the meeting.

2. Juliet reported back to the IAP regarding her meeting with Minister Frazer earlier in the morning:
 - a. **Vulnerability and self-harm** – Juliet stated that she was keen to emphasise that the focus should not be on converting prisons to hospitals and a health-based approach should be advocated instead.
 - b. **Vaccinations** – Government are trying hard to get priority vaccinations for healthcare and prison staff and prisoners. Cohorts so far seem to be based on age group. Juliet discussed Seena's research on virus transmission and the general level of poor health in the prison population. Prisoners are being double tested on arrival but still not upon release.
 - c. **Board reform** – Minister Frazer believes the priorities of the Board should match those of the IAP. She would welcome a discussion on effectiveness in the new year and also supported work on drug-related prison deaths.
 - d. **Future meetings** – Minister Frazer was open to meeting with the whole IAP in the new year. The meeting on 'natural' deaths with Minister Dorries will be rearranged.

Action 1: Secretariat to share HMIP paper on Women's Expectations with Juliet and Deborah for comment. Secretariat to prepare short cover note covering main responses to HMIP paper.

Action 2: Juliet will write to the JCVI Chair re vaccinations for staff and prisoners as priority groups.

Item 2: Policing Minister meeting preparation

3. All IAP members will be attending the meeting with Minister Malthouse on 17 December. Juliet highlighted that Minister Malthouse has repeatedly said that he wants to lead work which prevents deaths and thinks he believes passionately in this topic, particularly in matters concerning families. Juliet suggested that she will cover introductions and the closing remarks of the meeting but would be grateful for IAP thoughts as to main priorities. The secretariat had provided a paper outlining suggested talking points as well as recent background gathered from meetings with the Home Office.
4. Jenny Talbot suggested selecting priority subjects from the provided paper and leading the meeting with these.
5. Deborah suggested that she had some issues with the Police awards recommendation. This is a sensitive issue and may not be appropriately timed given the number of inquests which are due to begin in the new year. John agreed on this point. She added that a further point for discussion should concern the Minister's commitment to the result of investigations following deaths – i.e. how best can they get to the truth, accountability and, if necessary, prosecutions.
6. The Panel agreed to advocate for the police leadership initiative and mental health solutions (including addressing the use of police as first responders in moments of crisis, Liaison and Diversion and the rollout of CSTRs).

Item 3: PFD proposal

7. Deborah presented the project proposal to track the distribution of coroners' Prevention of Future Deaths reports and to have conversations with individuals and agencies they are sent to. She outlined how in the long-term we want to identify how PFDs are being used in reality and what best practice can be identified. Juliet proposed that this project be referred to as a sampling exercise/information gathering and should not as 'research'.
8. Jenny S agreed with the methodology outlined, as a saturation point of findings will probably be reached after examining a certain amount of reports. The project should adopt a qualitative approach. She remarked that it is a viable piece of work, which could lead to a wider roundtable at a later date. She offered to comment on the methodology of the project as it progresses.
9. Deborah and John will work jointly with Graham on the project.
10. Juliet recommended early liaison/engagement with the Chief Coroner and his office.

Action 2: Secretariat to set-up meeting with John, Deborah and Juliet in early 2021 to discuss sampling for IAP PFD project.

Item 4: 2021 meetings

11. A note has been created to establish the best day and frequency for meetings in 2021. John clarified that his lack of availability would only be for two weeks out of a month. Deborah also stated that she has INQUEST team meetings on Monday and Tuesday mornings, fortnightly.
12. The Panel does not have a preference on the time of day but agreed to meeting monthly. It was also stressed that there needs to be adequate break time to make the virtual meetings manageable.

Action 3: Secretariat to send out proposed date and time options for meetings.

AOB

13. Juliet proposed responding to prisoner letters as an agenda item for a future meeting. Piers is keen to get insight from other secure settings as well as from prisoner letters if possible.

Date of next meeting:

January 2021 (to be confirmed)

Summary of actions:

- Secretariat to share HMIP paper on Women's Expectations with Juliet and Deborah for comment. Secretariat to prepare short cover note covering main responses to HMIP paper.
- **Action 2: Juliet will write to the JCVI Chair re vaccinations for staff and prisoners as priority groups.**
- Secretariat to set-up meeting with John, Deborah and Juliet in early 2021 to discuss sampling for IAP PFD project.
- Secretariat to send out proposed date and time options for meetings.