

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody  
Minutes of IAP meeting – 19 April 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Juliet Lyon - Chair**

John Wadham  
Deborah Coles  
Jenny Shaw  
Jenny Talbot  
Kish Hyde  
Graham Randall  
Adrian Blake

Junior Johnson, MOJ co-sponsor, for item 1

**Apologies:**

Seena Fazel  
Piers Barber

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1. The panel discussed disproportionality evidence relating to race and deaths in custody. INQUEST is doing new analysis of police data as they now have more detail about the circumstances of deaths. They are also looking at prison deaths in relation to race and neglect.
  2. Juliet stated that she was looking at bringing in a consultant to explore how the panel can best apply the lens of racial disparity to all the panel's work.

**Item 1: Race and Diversity – work and representation**

3. Junior Johnson, MOJ co-sponsor, explained that he approached the issue from two angles: as the policy co-sponsor, and as the MoJ race champion. He said that while it appears the data is not conclusive he would be supportive of any work carried out by the panel as more thinking was needed in this area.
4. The panel discussed the importance of addressing perceptions and understanding data on disproportionality and deaths in custody. Deaths of black men in police custody have been particularly troubling and have had a huge impact on communities. Panel members felt that a consultant could work with them to look beyond the statistics and provide support with research. There was a need to look at other groups as well, such as the Gypsy/Traveller/Roma community, and to consider the intersectionality with issues such as mental health and substance misuse. The panel also discussed the possibility of co-opting an additional panel member. Junior agreed about the need to look at the issue in its broadest context.
5. Juliet asked about the re-appointment of panel members; Junior advised that the MoJ was still waiting to hear back from Cabinet Office.

6. Juliet suggested learning from the results of INQUEST's work, which should be completed within two months. Rather than duplicating, complementary work in this sphere needs to be explored. The panel has a principle of consulting experts by experience but has yet to consult specifically in this area. The panel said they need to be clear about when, why and in what ways consultancy on race would be most useful. The aim of such consultancy should be to strengthen IAPDC capacity to prevent deaths in custody. The panel could draw up a brief in consultation with Junior, then ask people to tender. The panel agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

**Action 1: Panel to continue race discussion and next steps at next panel meeting.**

**Item 2: Feedback from panel-only meeting**

7. The panel had discussed:
  - Re-appointments. The delay in MoJ getting a response to recommended reappointments was causing difficulty for panel members and could damage the ongoing work of the IAPDC.
  - Race issues – as above. Important report by Zahid Mubarek Trust acknowledged.
  - Next steps to secure whole institution vaccinations in prisons
  - Removal of witnesses in Immigration Detention Centre deaths

**Item 3: Immigration update and lessons learned review - death of Mr Lavicka**

8. John had attended a lesson learning debrief at an immigration detention centre to look at the key issues surrounding the death of a detainee and how to avoid a future death. John noted the use of independent facilitation and stated that this role should be clarified.
9. Panel members agreed that an independent person ought to be at such debriefs and considered if that should be the IAPDC or another independent facilitator. Juliet advised that she was meeting Tyson Hepple, Director General in Immigration Enforcement, in May and would raise it with him. This could be followed with a discussion at a panel meeting.
10. Related to this were two recent High Court decisions concerning witnesses to deaths in Immigration Detention Centres being deported and therefore unable to provide evidence. No family was present at the inquest in this case. Panel queried if an organisation could become the interested party otherwise there was potential that the death would not get proper scrutiny.

**Action 2: Juliet to raise question with Tyson Hepple of attendance at lessons learned debriefs following a death in immigration detention.**

**Item 4: AOB**, including minutes of previous meeting, and updates on key workstreams.

11. Juliet drew attention to the following actions from the previous meeting:
  - *Secretariat to arrange discussion with Jenny and Seena on how to approach a mapping exercise of existing self-harm interventions and trials. (Secretary's note – this exercise is postponed until site visits for researchers can resume following the end of COVID-19 restrictions).*
  - *Seena and Secretariat to finalise data gathering ahead of drafting the report.* Progress had been made in collecting data. Deborah requested another discussion before it was published.
  - *Panel to discuss their response to the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill via email.* Juliet would follow-up by email.

➤ *Secretariat to speak to Safer Custody team about learning from “near-miss” cases.*  
A meeting of the panel, Chris Barnett-Page and investigators to discuss findings and uses for the reports will take place summer 2021.

12. Deborah requested an amendment to the minutes of the last meeting relating to the deaths of Black people following restraint. (*Secretary’s note – amendment to minutes made.*)

13. Secretariat reminded the panel that the response deadline for the Mental Health Act White Paper was in two days.

**Action 3: Mental Health Act White Paper submission to be made by IAPDC.**

**Date of next meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm-4.30pm

**Actions:**

- **Panel to continue race discussion and agree next steps at next panel meeting**
- **Juliet to raise question with Tyson Hepple about IAPDC attendance at lessons learned debriefs following a death in immigration detention**
- **Mental Health Act White Paper submission to be made by IAPDC.**