

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody  
Minutes of IAPDC meeting  
5 August 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Juliet Lyon - Chair**

John Wadham

Deborah Coles (for item 1-3)

Jenny Shaw (for item 1-2)

Jenny Talbot

Piers Barber

Kish Hyde

Graham Randall

Adrian Blake

**Apologies:**

Seena Fazel

---

**Item 1: IAPDC work on deaths in secure hospitals**

1. The secretariat had prepared a paper on potential work that the panel could undertake in response to the number of deaths in secure hospitals. Panel members suggested that much of the focus has been on people detained under Section 2 or 3 of the Mental Health Act. It was highlighted that the panel should not lose focus on cases relating to those people who are detained by forensic services or by Court order.
2. Deborah highlighted some key areas of concern:
  - Quality of data, particularly around reporting the deaths of voluntary detainees and children. When someone is a voluntary patient their death is still not always reported to the CQC.
  - The lack of independent pre-investigations and the stark contrast between this and other custodial sectors where deaths are investigated by an independent body. This has been identified as a policy question for Government rather than a legal issue.
  - How families are involved in a meaningful way, particularly during inquests.
3. The panel also discussed the need to:
  - Examine 'natural cause' deaths in secure hospitals (potentially in a similar way to the IAPDC's project on such deaths in prisons);
  - Engage with co-sponsors;
  - Arrange senior NHS representation representing deaths under the Mental Health Act on the Ministerial Board;

- Learn more from the findings of the National Confidential Inquiry; and
- Develop more rigorous investigations and a central location for learnings.

4. Panel members and the Secretariat agreed to meet to agree a way forward.

**Action 1: Secretariat to set up meeting with Deborah and Jenny on IAPDC Mental Health Act projects.**

**Item 2: IAPDC 2021-22 Workplan**

5. The 2021-22 workplan projects are divided into the three priority areas agreed by the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody. Juliet talked through the items on the draft workplan for panel discussion:

- Secure health – next steps agreed as above.
- Policing – Juliet is meeting Kit Malthouse MP on 7<sup>th</sup> September and Nev Kemp, NPCC, next week. Deborah felt that the panel should also reflect on other deaths involving police contact rather than just the ones in the statistics provided to the panel.
- Immigration detention – John questioned if people being held in temporary holding centres were actually being detained by the immigration service. Juliet stated that she will write to the Minister about safety in temporary holding cells. John asked whether a senior official could explain the issue. Deborah would welcome information on access to data. Juliet raised the potential role of the voluntary sector in supporting the IAPDC's recommendations relating to the relevance of nationality and previous trauma on interventions.

**Action 2: Juliet to write to Immigration Minister about the safety of people being held in temporary holding cells.**

- Substance misuse project – work was progressing and the item will remain on the workplan.
- COVID-19 restrictions advice – Juliet will share more about what the HMPPS COVID-19 Recovery Forum is doing with panel members going forward.
- Place of safety – the Prison Governors Association are keen to do a survey with IAPDC on this in the Autumn and HMIP are also progressing a related project.
- Deaths of people on remand (and those recalled) – Prison Reform Trust have indicated they are interested in contributing to this area. Seena may be interested in leading the work.

**Action 3: Jenny Shaw to talk to Seena on work being done on the link between suicides and remand.**

- Preventing Future Deaths reports – work has started on this project.
- Policing – learning after a death – work has started on this project.
- Lessons learned exercises following a death in the immigration detention estate – continuation of current work.

- xi. Unnatural deaths of those detained under the Mental Health Act – this project will need to be further defined.
- xii. Near miss cases – a new piece of work which will need interested panel members to take forward. It is also aligned to the Ministerial Board workplan. The description should be amended to reflect the cross-sector aspect. Deborah flagged Seena's work in this area.
- xiii. Bereaved Families – for discussion later
- xiv. Long COVID - panel agreed to remove this item as it is not closely related to deaths. The issue will be pursued through other workplan items elsewhere.
- xv. Deaths from natural causes – panel will continue to input into the MoJ Older Offenders Strategy.
- xvi. Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) – Juliet suggested updating the 2019 IAPDC paper with new material from IAPDC correspondence.

**Action 4: Secretariat to update workplan following discussion and circulate to co-sponsors. Juliet and Piers to review initial IPP report and scope to update and re-submit to Ministers.**

- 6. Piers advised that there is a budget of £40k available to help support IAPDC work.
- 7. Deborah was concerned that monitoring progress on the Dame Elish Angiolini review was not enough and that the panel should not lose sight of the difficult issues it raised. Juliet asked Deborah to clarify what follow-up actions she would like to see.

**Action 5: Deborah to highlight specific areas of Angiolini Review to follow-up on following the government update.**

**Item 3: IAPDC approach to engagement with bereaved families**

- 8. Deborah explained that INQUEST run a Family Reference Group and felt that the panel should meet them to understand what they see as the pressing issues. It would be an opportunity to find out how they want to be contacted and could be used as a forum to test how accurate information received from custodial sectors about engaging with bereaved families is. A Family Listening Day could be arranged later.
- 9. Deborah had an introductory meeting with the Chief Coroner who was also interested in the panel's work on PFD reports and will want to be involved in the report in due course.

**Action 6: Deborah to discuss session with INQUEST Family Reference Group and put lead in touch with secretariat. Kish to update information from depts.**

**Item 4: HMPPS-IAPDC draft agreement**

- 10. Juliet explained that the agreement originated after the prison service failed to consult on their policy change on/withdrawal of the requirement to report an

instance of noose-making as an incident of self-harm. The panel discussed the purpose of the agreement. John questioned need for/value of agreement given IAPDC existing powers. Piers explained that the agreement was intended to enable the two bodies to work together more effectively.

**Action 7: Piers and Juliet to discuss and revise the HMPPS-IAPDC agreement ready for sign off with DG, Phil Copple.**

**Item 5: Feedback from panel-only session, minutes and actions from previous meeting and updates on workstreams**

11. The panel had used their panel-only session to discuss their portfolios going forward.
12. Kish ran through the actions from the last meeting, all of which were either complete or in-hand.
13. Juliet said that she would send through final text to the PSG for the newsletter.

**Action 8: Juliet to send final text for newsletter to the PSG to the Secretariat for distribution.**

**Item 6: AOB and finish**

- Evidence submissions – proposed secretariat timetable  
Graham explained that the Secretariat had set up a timetable to help organise responses to inquiries. A small working party of interested panel members will be set up to prepare each submission within the deadline. The panel agreed this was a good idea, though Juliet raised the need to adjust some of the timescales.
- IAPDC representation at National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group  
Kish explained that she had been attending the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group (NSPSAG) as a representative of the panel and providing feedback, but that it may be time to review this arrangement. Juliet will send an email to panel members asking if they would be interested in attending.

**Action 9: Juliet to consult panel on membership of the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.**

**Date of next meeting**

15 September, 2-4pm

**Actions:**

- 1: Secretariat to set up meeting with Deborah and Jenny on IAPDC Mental Health Act projects.
- 2: Juliet to write to Immigration Minister about the safety of people being held in temporary holding cells.
- 3: Jenny Shaw to talk to Seena on work being done on the link between suicides and remand.

**4: Secretariat to update workplan following discussion and circulate to co-sponsors. Juliet and Piers to review initial IPP report and scope to update and re-submit to Ministers.**

**5: Deborah to highlight specific areas of Angiolini Review to follow-up on following the government update.**

**6: Deborah to discuss session with INQUEST Family Reference Group and put lead in touch with secretariat. Kish to update information from depts.**

**7: Piers and Juliet to discuss and revise the HMPPS-IAPDC agreement ready for sign off with DG, Phil Copple.**

**8: Juliet to send final text for newsletter to the PSG to the Secretariat for distribution.**

**9: Juliet to consult panel on membership of the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.**