

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAPDC meeting: 28 April 2022**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

Deborah Coles

Seena Fazel

Jenny Shaw

Kish Hyde

Adrian Blake

Piers Barber

Apologies:

Jenny Talbot

Item 1: Panel only meeting

1. The panel will review individual areas of responsibility at the next full panel-only meeting.
2. Juliet will send suggested points to make for a letter to the Home Secretary about the safety of asylum seekers sent to Rwanda.
3. The IAPDC budget will be discussed as a substantive item at the next panel meeting. The panel would like to plan ahead for this coming year so will draw up a proposal for items/projects and keep budget under review. . Suggestions included:
 - Support for drafting briefings for upcoming roundtables (independent research costs)
 - Family listening day facilitated by INQUEST
 - Consultations with people with lived experience and family members (their time and travel)
 - Payment for those involved in panel projects, such as the statistical review (research costs).

Action 1: Juliet to send points to make to the Secretariat to draft a letter to the Home Secretary on the safety of asylum seekers sent to Rwanda.

Item 2: Prevention of Future Deaths reports

4. Deborah fed back on the interim PFD sampling review. She suggested adding additional context on previous MBDC discussions, including following an INQUEST paper, and quotes from families, for example from INQUEST's recent evidence to the Justice Committee.
5. Deborah also suggested additional recommendations on ending guidance from legal firms on how to avoid PFDs, improving how families are updated on progress, and the need for an annual thematic report.

6. Deborah said that it was important that progress is fed back to families following a PFD report and that the organisation responsible for responding to the report should be responsible for doing so. All families should receive the PFD report as a minimum.
7. The panel decided to finalise and share the initial report after the roundtable events with coroners but will share discussion points in advance with attendees. Jenny Shaw expressed an interest in being more involved in the project, and Seena will interrogate the work in more detail.

Action 2: Secretariat to embed comments from the panel meeting into the IAPDC PFD report.

Action 3: Deborah to work with Secretariat, Jenny S and Juliet to arrange the PFD coroner roundtable events.

Item 3: PFD triage project

8. Adrian presented the key findings in the latest project summary – there was one court custody death in this selection and seven examples of reports not being copied to families. There were also some cases that referenced previous similar deaths.
9. The panel discussed the need to determine the role of IAPDC in relation to PFDs – a full discussion about this role will take place at a future meeting.
10. The panel questioned how this evidence could be implemented into the wider panel project and agreed that this is important as the reports detailed are the most recent. It was also noted that inconsistency was a concern to resolve.
11. Seena asked what happens when the IAPDC disagrees with the findings of PFD reports. He suggested a high, medium and low rating for levels of certainty on Matters of Concern could be implemented, with a split between issues for system and individuals.

Action 4: Secretariat to consider how to work PFD triage project into the IAPDC PFDs report and coverage at the upcoming roundtable events.

Item 4: Information Sharing Statement

12. Piers provided a brief overview of the current IAPDC information sharing statement and the suggestion from the MoJ safety team that it was updated and relaunched.
13. It was agreed that the statement cover all detention settings and that the ideas from MoJ Safety Team appeared sound and should be included. Seena urged caution around the proportionality suggestion, as this can be taken too far and is sometimes part of the problem. Jenny Shaw stated that families can share information with services, however staff do not always appreciate that this is permitted.

Action 5: Secretariat to gather panel member feedback on the proposed update to the Information Sharing Agreement.

Item 5: AOB

14. The discussion on IAPDC report recommendations will be tabled for the next meeting.

15. Laura Hearn, on the Unlocked programme and currently working at HMP Woodhill, will be working with the secretariat on a placement for two weeks from 3 May.
16. Visit to Manston immigration holding centre planned in May
17. Jenny S, Seena and Deborah keen for panel to focus on preventing deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act. Discussion and project proposal next full meeting.

Date of next meeting: 26 May 2022

Actions:

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