



Juliet Lyon
Chair, Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

By Email.

MoJ ref: ADR 80528

31 July 2020

Dear Juliet,

SUMMARY REPORT OF REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL POLICY ON MOTHER AND BABY UNITS AND PREGNANCY AND MOTHERS IN PRISON

In July last year my officials initiated a review of the policy for prison staff managing and caring for all women experiencing pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units (MBUs), and maternal separation in prison.

I am pleased to publish a report today which summarises both our work on the review and the key reforms we are proposing that will improve the support such women receive in prison. The report can be found at the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-operational-policy-on-pregnancy-mother-and-baby-units-and-maternal-separation>.

The review has benefitted from a wide ranging multi-disciplinary stakeholder consultation, including input from frontline staff and across the statutory and voluntary sectors, as well as a thorough literature consultation. This has offered an opportunity for staff, criminal justice and third sector partners and stakeholders to reflect on practice, respond to changing dynamics in the landscape, and update the evidence base for this important area of work. The stakeholder consultation process gave individuals with lived experience a central voice in this review process, through focus groups with current and former prisoners.

We are grateful to all those who shared their time and experiences with us. Their input will enable us to make fundamental improvements to our care and management of these women. To continue this dialogue, we plan to introduce a new, biannual Stakeholder Forum on Pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units and Mothers in Prison. This will inform future policy and operational development in this area and ensure that we uphold our accountability.

The new Policy Framework will also reflect the widened scope of the review to include all those recently separated from children under two, pregnant women and those on MBUs.

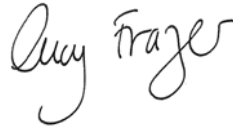
We are committed to improved collection and use of data to inform our care of these women. To this end, and to improve transparency, we plan to collect additional data centrally to inform policy and practice and ultimately improve the support we provide to those in our care.

We also intend to make improvements to MBU applications and appeals processes to ensure they are accessible and trauma informed for the individuals involved. We want to set out a template for each woman to have a tailored care plan, as well as provide clear and detailed guidance for staff on how to

offer the best possible support for all perinatal women in prison. The Implementation Strategy for the new package will include extended training to reflect the expanded remit of the new policy.

Following publication of the new Policy Framework and guidance, we will provide an update on the implementation of the changes outlined in this report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP