



Ministry  
of Justice



Home Office



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

***Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody***

***Chair: Juliet Lyon CBE  
Head of Secretariat: Piers Barber***

***102 Petty France  
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[www.iapondeathsincustody.org](http://www.iapondeathsincustody.org)

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Minister of State for Immigration  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

22 November 2022

Dear Minister,

I am writing further to my letter dated 28 October 2022 in which I raised urgent concerns on behalf of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC) regarding the apparent threats to life for those held at Manston, the short-term holding facility in Kent. Since then, according to reports, a man who was detained at the centre has sadly died just one week after arriving in the UK. While the cause of his death has yet to be established, media coverage has commented on unconfirmed reports that he may have developed sepsis.

I welcome steps the Home Office has taken in recent weeks to reduce significantly the number of individuals held at the centre. However, it remains the case that Manston is not a residential facility but has been misused as such. Repeated warnings about the deterioration of conditions, including from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, have called into serious question the Home Office's ability to keep people safe and prevent the loss of life.

Today, it has been reported that the facility at Manston is now empty, raising the question as to whether a decision has been made that it is too unsafe to hold further detainees. The Panel is also concerned by allegations from former detainees that some individuals previously held there were not given timely access to emergency healthcare while being detained longer than the permitted 24-hour period. It is vital to establish whether these factors had any impact on the death on Saturday.

The IAPDC is concerned not to have received confirmation of steps the Home Office has taken to ensure the safety of people detained at the centre. Our questions about the provision of healthcare, infection prevention and control measures, and appropriately trained staff remain unanswered. These questions apply, of course, to other facilities holding people seeking asylum where the state has an obligation to protect lives. Clarification is also needed over the investigatory processes following such tragic incidents. Given the urgency of this matter, I would be grateful to receive a timely response to the IAPDC's concerns.

As ever,

**Juliet Lyon CBE**  
**Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC)**