



Ministry  
of Justice



Home Office



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody  
Minutes of IAP meeting – 20 January 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Juliet Lyon - Chair**

John Wadham

Jenny Shaw

Jenny Talbot

Deborah Coles

Seena Fazel

Piers Barber

Kish Hyde

Graham Randall

Adrian Blake

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**Item 1: Updates on key workstreams and projects**

1. Juliet fed back on agreed panel actions:

- Letter to the Lord Chancellor drawing attention to the impact of the virus on staffing and the importance of the key worker scheme.
- Seena asked about the infection rate for prisoners.
- Jenny S said that she would try to review data from NHS Trusts relating to suicides and inpatient deaths to compare with CQC data and triangulate with figures given to IAP.

**Action 1: Juliet to write to Lord Chancellor about staffing in prisons and the impact on the key worker scheme during COVID-19.**

**Action 2: Secretariat to explore whether data on infection rates for prisoners exists and can be shared with the Panel.**

**Action 3: Jenny S to review data from NHS Trusts relating to suicides and inpatient deaths for comparison with CQC data and figures given to IAP.**

2. Piers gave an update on recent work:

- The secretariat has been developing ideas for **reforming the Ministerial Board** which have been shared with the co-sponsors and Juliet.
- The panel have sent out letters to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and health ministers urging the **prioritisation of vaccinations** for those detained in closed settings and staff.

- Panel members met yesterday to scope out work on the **preventing future deaths project**.
- The Secretariat will be commissioning updates to the matrix detailing how services communicate with **bereaved families**, and will discuss next steps with Deborah.
- The Panel met the **immigration enforcement** team last week. They are finalising an action plan to put to the Minister in response to the IAP's strategy for preventing deaths and will propose a meeting with relevant IAP members. The Panel are exploring work on near-miss cases.
- John and Juliet had a meeting with the Home Office about **small boats and receptions**. HMIP are putting out a call for evidence on, and considering an inspection process for, temporary places of detention for people seeking asylum.
- The **preventing self-harm in prison** seminar is scheduled for 24 February. Secretariat have sent invites and had a good response.
- Secretariat submitted two evidence submissions to HMIP on expectations for women in prison, prepared by Jenny Shaw and Jenny Talbot, and on neurodiversity.

**Action 4: Secretariat to follow-up on latest on IRC leaflet for bereaved families.**

**Action 5: Secretariat to set-up meeting with Deborah to discuss next steps on bereaved families workstream once information gathering exercise complete.**

Upcoming:

- Meeting with NHSE (Kate Davies) on next steps for natural death report by IAP and RCN.
- Meeting with HMPPS (Jane Trigg) who is leading on drugs strategy and RCGP (Jake Hard, chair of RCGP secure environments group).
- Juliet will meet Bob Neil MP, chair of the Justice Committee monthly. The IAP is keen to establish closer working relations with Jeremy Hunt MP, chair of the Health Select Committee and Harriet Harman MP, chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.
- Meeting with Home Office to take forward work on policing. The Kevin Clarke PFD will be published in next couple of weeks.
- Juliet to follow-up with Phil Copple on a formal system to consult IAP on decisions which would require ministerial input and approval.
- Deborah asked the panel not to lose sight of work on secure mental health settings. IAP members to put forward priorities.
- Meeting with Magistrates Association on 9 February on people being remanded into custody as no alternative safe accommodation available.

**Action 6: Secretariat and Jenny S to set-up meeting with Jake Hard on chronic disease management.**

3. All actions from the previous meeting were complete.

## **Item 2: Mental Health Act White Paper**

4. Jenny T shared her initial thoughts and concerns about sections of the Mental Health White Paper relevant to the IAP. These included the safety of patients in mental health settings, supporting those in mental health crisis, proposals for family liaison, legal aid, plans to call a halt to the use of prison and police custody as a place of safety, prison transfers, and healthcare commissioning of police custody. Some timescales for reform lack ambition.
5. Healthcare commissioning should be discussed with the co-sponsors when the panel meet policing co-sponsors next week. Piers suggested using the White Paper as a starting point for IAP work on secure health settings.
6. The deadline for responses to the paper is 21 April 2021. The panel should consider in-person engagement as well as a written response. The written response should be strategic and targeted.

**Action 7: Secretariat to set up meeting with DHSC co-sponsors to discuss IAP workstream on secure health settings.**

## **Item 3: AOB**

### Correspondence with people in custody

7. Juliet thought the panel could make better use of correspondence from prisoners. The panel agreed that they should be shared with other members and discussed. Deborah wondered if the panel should invite prisoner post about their recent experiences of the pandemic, as done during the previous lockdown.

### Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD) training delivery consultation

8. Former panel member Meng Aw-Yong had asked for panel endorsement of police training on ABD response. Panel members want to give this proper consideration and to find out more about the consulting process. Have lawyers been consulted who have been at inquests where ABD was discussed? Have bereaved families been consulted? Which forces have trialled this training? Will it be run in conjunction with other materials – for example the 60 Seconds to Save a Life video?

**Action 8: Juliet to find out timeframes and who has been consulted about the ABD training and feedback.**

### Human Rights Act consultation

9. The Panel agreed the IAP should submit a response.

**Action 9: John to provide a note of proposed areas to cover in the response to the HRA consultation.**

### IAP meeting dates

**Action 10: Secretariat to send agreed dates of IAP meetings to panel members.**  
**Action 11: Panel members to consider speakers for future panel meetings and feedback at next meeting.**

**Next meeting**

16 February, 2pm-4.30pm

**Summary of actions:**

- **Juliet to write to Lord Chancellor about staffing in prisons and the impact on the key worker scheme during COVID-19.**
- **Secretariat to explore whether data on infection rates for prisoners exists and can be shared with the Panel.**
- **Jenny S to review data from NHS Trusts relating to suicides and inpatient deaths for comparison with CQC data and figures given to IAP.**
- **Secretariat to follow-up on latest on IRC leaflet for bereaved families.**
- **Secretariat to set-up meeting with Deborah to discuss next steps on bereaved families workstream once information gathering exercise complete.**
- **Secretariat and Jenny S to set-up meeting with Jake Hard on chronic disease management.**
- **Secretariat to set up meeting with DHSC co-sponsors to discuss IAP workstream on secure health settings**
- **Juliet to find out timeframes and who has been consulted about the ABD training and feedback**
- **John to provide a note of proposed areas to cover in the response to the HRA consultation**
- **Secretariat to send agreed dates of IAP meetings to panel members.**
- **Panel members to consider speakers for future panel meetings and feedback at next meeting**