



Ministry  
of Justice



Home Office



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody  
Minutes of IAP meeting – 16 February 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Juliet Lyon - Chair**

John Wadham  
Jenny Talbot  
Piers Barber  
Kish Hyde  
Graham Randall  
Adrian Blake

**Apologies:**

Seena Fazel  
Deborah Coles  
Jenny Shaw

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**Item 1: Last month's outstanding actions**

1. Juliet (JL) to write to Lord Chancellor about staffing in prisons and the impact on the key worker scheme during COVID-19: JL will continue to press the issue of vaccinations and steps taken to support the mental health of prisoners who have been in prolonged isolation in response. John (JW) suggested that IAPDC formal advice should be marked as such.
2. Juliet to write to Dr Meng Aw-Yong on his Acute Behavioural Disorder (ABD) training: JL confirmed that the panel had agreed, as a general principle, that it would encourage, but not endorse, training initiatives.

**Action 1: Juliet to write to Lord Chancellor and Health Secretary about vaccinations in prisons and the plans for mental health support post-pandemic.**

**Action 2: Juliet to invite Dr Meng Aw-Yong to a future panel meeting.**

**Item 2: Updates on key workstreams and projects**

3. The secretariat updated on recent work:
  - On the **PFD project**, a final list of 12 PFDs has been signed off; the secretariat will carry out initial analysis over the next two weeks.

- 87 individuals are currently signed-up to **attend the IAP's self-harm seminar** next week.
- The meeting with Ministers Dorries and Frazer regarding the **RCN/IAP Natural Deaths report** has been rearranged. Recommendations from the report were discussed with Kate Davies in January.
- Following a meeting with the Home Office **Police Powers Unit (PPU)** last month a joint letter has been drafted from JL and Minister Malthouse to the outgoing heads of PCCs before their tenure ends in April. Secretariat will consult with PPU on whether a further letter should be sent to Chief Constables.
- Two meetings have now taken place between IAP members, HMPPS and the RCGPs on an initiative on **drug-related deaths** to feed into the HMPPS drug strategy. The secretariat are meeting Jenny Shaw's team to discuss research. JL suggested a National Prison Radio consultation may be better focused on the emergence from COVID-19 rather than drug deaths at this stage.
- Data on **suicides within secure health** will be discussed at the next meeting.
- JL and Jenny Talbot (JT) are meeting Kathy Smethurst (Deputy Director at DHSC) to discuss the **MHA White Paper consultation and implementation**.
- JL requested a review with PB followed by a full discussion on progress against the **IAPDC workplan**.

**Action 3: JL and Secretariat to review IAPDC workplan prior to full discussion with panel members.**

### **Item 3: Ministerial Board reform**

4. PB shared a paper outlining an initial suggested model for the proposed reforms to the MBDC and how the IAP may sit within the new structure.
  - JW agreed with the approach though highlighted the wish for the IAPDC not to lose face-to-face interaction with ministers. JT highlighted the need to be flexible to emerging areas and suggested not all work has to be cross-cutting.
  - PB said that, if agreed by the co-chairs, the IAPDC will play a part in setting the workplan, leading sub-groups as key advisers and would meet ministers as a whole panel bi-annually. The next step is to engage the full membership.

**Action 4: Secretariat to continue to discuss Board proposals with panel members.**

### **Item 4: AOB**

5. JW said that under Section 7 of the Terrorism Act individuals can be detained at a port of transit for up to 6 hours, though he is not aware of any deaths.
6. JW enquired about the timing of the re-appointments of the IAP membership. PB informed that delayed advice has now gone to ministers.

### **Next meeting**

18 March, 2pm-4.30pm. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Charlie Taylor is attending.

Summary of actions:

- **Juliet to write to Lord Chancellor and Health Secretary about vaccinations in prisons and the plans for mental health support post-pandemic.**
- **Juliet to invite Dr Meng Aw-Yong to a future panel meeting.**
- **JL and Secretariat to review IAPDC workplan prior to full discussion with panel members.**
- **Secretariat to continue to discuss Board proposals with panel members.**