

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAPDC meeting
15 September 2021**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

John Wadham
Deborah Coles
Jenny Talbot
Seena Fazel
Piers Barber
Kish Hyde
Graham Randall

Apologies:

Jenny Shaw
Adrian Blake

Item 1: Engagement with bereaved families

1. Kish summarised the main findings from work to engage departments and agencies on their interaction with bereaved families after a death and the suggested next steps.
2. Deborah agreed to discuss the paper with the INQUEST casework team then the INQUEST Family Reference Group, especially from the perspective of whether the IAPDC Family Liaison Principles require revisiting, as it is now a long time since they were developed.

Action 1: Deborah to discuss the paper on interaction with bereaved families with the INQUEST casework team and invite Juliet and secretariat to the meeting.

Action 2: Deborah to discuss the paper on interaction with bereaved families with the INQUEST Family Reference Group, especially from the perspective of whether IAPDC Family Liaison Principles require revisiting, and arrange meeting between Family Reference Group and IAPDC this Autumn if possible.

3. Panel members asked what information was given to families following a bereavement. Deborah raised concerns that the HMPPS commitment that the Governor writes to the family immediately following an inquest does not always happen. Juliet said that she was aware of some Governors who had made lengthy journeys in order to visit families of the deceased.
4. Juliet explained that Jenny S wanted the panel to consider the issue of confidentiality which was often misinterpreted by staff and used as a blocker to proper consultation with families, particularly in healthcare settings.

5. The Secretariat will share material comparing organisational engagement against the Family Liaison Principles. Piers referred to the co-produced leaflet for bereaved families after a death in police custody and the need to ask about its distribution and whether there has been any feedback on it.

6. Deborah explained that INQUEST are working with the MoJ on incorporating the bereaved family perspective into their work on ACCT.

Action 3: Secretariat to send the panel all organisations' material for families, including in comparison against the IAPDC Family Liaison Principles.

Item 2: Updates on workstreams

Policing including Kit Malthouse MP meeting

7. The interim report was sent to the policing minister ahead of his meeting with Juliet. The minister was keen on this work and proposed sending the report to all Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) requesting further updates. Kit Malthouse wants this to be a priority for PCC Police and Crime plans, which they are drafting currently. Deborah said that the letter needed a focus on race and disproportionality. She asked if the Mental Health Concordat was still in operation as the issue of health personnel being first responders rather than police is relevant to families.

Action 4: Secretariat to find out latest on the Mental Health Concordat.

Action 5: Juliet to draft letter from her and the policing minister to go to new PCCs with copy of the interim policing report requesting further updates.

MA/CSTRs

8. Jenny T met with the Magistrates Association to plan an annual conference session and to discuss developing a roundtable event in October. Juliet and Beverley Higgs, National Chair of the MA, wrote a joint letter to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury and had received a response. Jenny has also been working with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to explore challenges in finding temporary short-term accommodation for those who would otherwise be remanded into custody.

Action 6: Secretariat to circulate Gabrielle Lee's paper on the misuse of prison as a place of safety. Juliet to meet Jenny Rees to discuss next steps.

PFDs project

9. Graham explained that a coroner roundtable event is in development. A draft report will be circulated soon.

Substance misuse related deaths

10. Jenny S met Professor Colin Drummond, King's College London, for input into the alcohol section of the substance misuse paper. Next steps for the project and publication will be discussed at the next meeting with the RCN and HMPSS.

Statistics bulletins

11. Seena has worked on preparing the statistics for publication, which will be released as a series of bulletins looking into different causations and demographics. Juliet asked that the panel discuss the near complete version before it is published.

Action 7: Secretariat to discuss first statistical bulletin with Juliet ahead of review by wider panel and publication.

Item 3: Feedback from panel-only session, minutes and actions from previous meeting

Action 8: Panel members to send updates on actions from the last meeting.

Action 9: Juliet to circulate her notes from the panel-only meeting.

Action 10: Secretariat to arrange introductory meetings with new ministers when portfolios confirmed.

Item 4: AOB

12. Juliet noted it was Graham's last IAPDC meeting. She and the panel thanked him for his tremendous support as well as substantial work on the substance misuse and PFDs projects, among many others.
13. Piers referenced some updates and requests:
 - New secretariat member Jecentha Shunmugam started this week.
 - Panel members to note the Ministerial Board session with MoJ later in the month on the link between remand and self-inflicted deaths.
 - Panel members to get back to Piers on a date for a follow-up meeting on the deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act.
 - The updated Register of Interests will be published shortly – the panel should respond to Adrian on this if they have not already done so.
 - Co-sponsors will be attending an IAPDC meeting in the near future.

Date of next meeting:

11 October 2021, 2pm to 4.30pm

Actions:

1. **Deborah to discuss the paper on interaction with bereaved families with the INQUEST casework team and invite Juliet and secretariat to the meeting.**
2. **Deborah to discuss the paper on interaction with bereaved families with the INQUEST Family Reference Group, especially from the perspective of whether IAPDC Family Liaison Principles require revisiting, and arrange meeting between Family Reference Group and IAPDC this Autumn if possible.**
3. **Secretariat to send the panel all organisations' material for families, including in comparison against the IAPDC Family Liaison Principles.**
4. **Secretariat to find out latest on the Mental Health Concordat.**
5. **Juliet to draft letter from her and the policing minister to go to new PCCs with copy of the interim policing report requesting further updates.**
6. **Secretariat to circulate Gabrielle Lee's paper on the misuse of prison as a place of safety. Juliet to meet Jenny Rees to discuss next steps.**
7. **Secretariat to discuss first statistical bulletin with Juliet ahead of review by wider panel and publication.**
8. **Panel members to send updates on actions from the last meeting.**
9. **Juliet to circulate her notes from the panel-only meeting.**
10. **Secretariat to arrange introductory meetings with new ministers when portfolios confirmed.**