

Harris Review Panel Meeting 23
12:00 – 16:00 26 March 2015
6.28B 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

Present: Lord Toby Harris (TH), Stephen Cragg (SC), Meng Aw Yong (MAY), Matilda MacAttram (MM), Deborah Coles (DC), Dinesh Maganty (DM), Richard Shepherd (RS), Deborah Browne (DB, intermittently), Robyn Malan de Merindol (RM), Graham Mackenzie (GM)

For Item 6: Isabel Sutcliffe

For Item 7: Mayur Patel

Apologies: Philip Leach (PL), Graham Towl (GT), Sharron Hilles (Legal Advisor)

Item 1: Minutes of previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed as a true record but a finish time of 17:45 should be recorded.

Item 2: Action Log

2. Progress on actions acknowledged, it was agreed that any decisions around using some work from the Koestler Trust in the published report would be considered at a later date.

Item 3: Update on meeting with Andrew Selous

3. TH told the panel that Andrew Selous (AS) had agreed to allow until noon on April 2nd for submission of the report, to allow time for a final edit. AS also agreed that there would be further time allowed for finalising the references, appendices and Executive Summary. After TH updated the Minister, AS told TH that he had not expected the breadth of the report and the volume of work that it clearly represented. AS confirmed his commitment to the publication of the report. AS was pleased to hear that TH had met with the Bishop of Prisons to make him aware of the report and recommendations.

(Secretary's note MM joined the meeting.)

Item 4: Any outstanding issues regarding recommendations

4. The panel considered the recommendations looking at where wording needed to be clarified including how the terms 'needs', 'should' and 'must' were to be used in a consistent way.

Item 6: Isabel Sutcliffe (Item 5 was deferred to later in the meeting)

6. Isabel Sutcliffe (IS) (Deputy Director Reducing Reoffending Policy Unit, MoJ) explained to the panel that her Unit would be responsible for co-ordinating the official response to the report. IS thanked the Chair and panel for the huge amount of work that they had done to produce the report.

7. IS confirmed that Ministers were expecting the report on 2nd April; this would be followed by a series of fact-checking discussions with NOMS, MoJ, and OGDs. During purdah the

Department will be thinking about how to brief new ministers about the report, and how it fitted in to manifesto commitments.

8. IS said that if it were necessary they would 'fact check' the detail of the report with the panel via TH. IS said that they wanted to be sure that the Department understood the recommendations, particularly where they concern OGDs, to make sure there is no misconstruction.

9. Post-election, IS said it will be for new Ministers to determine when to publish the Report and whether to publish a Government response alongside it. The panel felt there was a risk the report would be published later than they would prefer. IS explained that one of the factors influencing the timing would be how much work on costing recommendations had to be done.

10. IS requested that panel members do not share the report at this stage.

11. IS said that, where possible, the Department will try and keep the panel updated regarding the responses from government to the report but this can be difficult and unpredictable.

12. IS explained that during the coming weeks, there will be continuity of the current Secretariat who will continue to deal with immediate administrative priorities for the Review, including preparing the property of the Review to hand over to MoJ. However, this resource is unlikely to continue beyond May. MoJ will provide appropriate support for the launch of the Report. TH will be the lead spokesperson for the Review.

(Secretary's note DB joined the meeting.)

Item 7: Legal Advisors update

13. *[Paragraph redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice provided to the Panel].*

14. *[Paragraph redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice provided to the Panel].*

14. *[Paragraph redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice provided to the Panel].*

15. *[Paragraph redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice provided to the Panel].*

Action 142: *[Action redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice to be provided to the Panel].*

Action 143: *[Action redacted as relates to privileged and confidential advice to be provided to the Panel].*

Item 5: Title of the Report (deferred from earlier in the meeting)

16. The panel agreed the working title for the report will be, 'The Harris Review: Changing Prisons, Saving Lives'.

Item 8: AOB

17. DB updated the panel on her progress with the draft and asked that any comments should be made in the body of an email referring to the relevant paragraph and detail the point being made.

18. The report will be proof read by a professional proof-reader before publication.

19. The panel agreed that it should meet informally with the Secretariat following the IAP meeting in June.