

TOBY HARRIS  
(LORD HARRIS OF HARINGEY)



Jeremy Wright MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice  
102 Petty France  
London SW1H 9AJ

16 March 2014

*Dear Jeremy*

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO DEATHS OF YOUNG ADULTS IN PRISON CUSTODY**

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 inviting the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody to conduct an independent review into the self-inflicted deaths of young adults in NOMS custody. The Panel has now had the opportunity of considering this invitation and its consideration has been informed by the helpful discussions I have had with your officials over the last few weeks.

The Panel welcomes the invitation and is happy to agree to take on the review. The Panel accepts that the terms of reference of the review are a matter for Ministers. However, the Panel remains of the view that it would have been helpful had the terms of reference of the review explicitly included consideration of the four deaths of children that have taken place during the review period. Nonetheless, we recognise that the terms of reference we have been given require us to "take into account the learning which has been undertaken in respect of the youth estate" and to consider in respect of the young adults who have died in prison "any relevant factors arising from their experiences prior to entering the custodial system". We also envisage that it will be helpful to seek the input not only of the families of the young adults who have died in custody during the period covered by the review, but also from the families of the four children who have died in custody during the period.

We anticipate commencing our work in April as requested, but would seek one additional assurance from you. Please can you confirm that it will be the intention of the government to respond in full and in public to our review once it has been completed and the government has had the chance to consider it.

Yours sincerely

*Toby Harris*

Lord Toby Harris

---

LORD HARRIS OF HARINGEY, HOUSE OF LORDS, SW1A 0PW.  
Tel: 020 7219 8513 Email: [th@tobyharrisassociates.co.uk](mailto:th@tobyharrisassociates.co.uk)