

News from the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody - July 2017

Message from the Chair of the Panel

We are producing this IAP news bulletin to coincide with, and help to disseminate, the July 2017 quarterly figures on deaths in custody, released today by the Ministry of Justice. We welcome some small improvement in the bleak figures for self-inflicted deaths. Although too soon to represent a trend and subject to revision as those deaths awaiting further information are clarified and classified, the figures reflect considerable efforts to try and make custody safer. Very high self-harm and assault levels are testimony to just how much still needs to be done. Now, as the painstaking work of repair and reform continues, we cannot stress enough the importance of establishing safeguards and mechanisms for government accountability and effective means to ensure that obligations to protect life are met.

In the ten months since I took up my appointment as chair of the panel, I have met prisoners and prison staff, patients and clinical staff and those in police custody suites, Ministers, operational leads, regulatory and investigatory bodies and wider stakeholders. While any deaths in health, immigration and police custody remain areas of concern, the Panel is particularly disturbed by the sharp increase in deaths in the prison estate over the last four years. We are working closely with colleagues in HM Prisons and Probation Service in their efforts to reverse the trend. The announcements in the White Paper of improved staff:prisoner ratios and a greater emphasis on meaningful interaction were encouraging as was strengthening independent oversight and the inclusion of a number of other recommendations from the Harris review, but continued focus is required given the disappointing absence of any prison-related legislation in this Parliamentary session.

The level of change in departments, and the wider political environment, makes the primary role of the IAP – providing advice to Ministers on reducing deaths in state custody – both challenging and important. I am determined to make sure the IAP makes a significant contribution to the substantive efforts everyone is making in this area, and this means acting strategically and being selective about where we can help and advise. We are grateful to the 60 women in custody and the 45 expert board members and stakeholders who responded with detailed submissions to our call for advice on how best to prevent suicide and self-harm following the deaths of 12 women in 2016, the highest toll since 2004. More information on this and other areas of the IAP's work can be found later in the bulletin.

I am clear that the IAP must listen directly to families and those in the criminal justice, immigration and health systems. We will engage more closely with bereaved families in the coming year. Open conversations with people in custody will continue to inform all the work we undertake. I hope that you find this bulletin informative, and I look forward to working with you as we seek to reduce the number and rate of deaths in all forms of state custody. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me or the Secretariat.



Juliet Lyon CBE – Chair of the IAP

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Parliamentary update

Ministerial team

The Ministerial teams in the three departments most relevant to the IAP's remit all featured some changes. Following the post-election reshuffle, the new Ministers were confirmed as:

Ministry of Justice

Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor – Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Prisons and Probation Minister – Sam Gyimah MP

Home Office

Home Secretary – Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Minister for Policing and the Fire Service – Nick Hurd MP

Department of Health

Secretary of State for Health – Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Minister for Public Health and Innovation – Jackie Doyle-Price MP

The recent General Election and focus on Brexit-related in the Queen's Speech means that the Prisons and Courts Bill which was previously going through Parliament will not feature in this Parliamentary session.

The Prisons and Courts Bill

The original text of the Bill contained content which, applied appropriately, could play a significant role in safeguarding people in prisons. The measures of the Bill set out a revised governance framework for prisons where the Justice Secretary would account to Parliament for progress in reforming offenders, and a strengthened inspectorate and ombudsman to provide sharper external scrutiny of the system. This framework would be supported by

- new standards and league tables
- a new commissioning structure
- new powers for governors.

The strengthening of the powers of HM Inspectorate of Prisons and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman were particularly welcome. Strong and effective oversight of the system is essential both to identify and articulate its failings, and the ways to mitigate them. Putting the Ombudsman's office on a statutory footing is something that has been sought for many years, and would appropriately reinforce this role.

The IAP has explored ways to reinforce Government accountability for protecting lives and meeting its Article 2 responsibilities. Pending future legislation, we will continue to explore administrative measures to strengthen checks and balances, assess impact of any proposed policy or practice change and keep people in custody safe.

The White Paper on Prison Reform and Harris Review

Despite the lack of forthcoming custodial legislation, the IAP was pleased to see the publication of the Government's White Paper - [Prison Safety and Reform](#) – which seeks to counter the rising violence, self-harm and suicide currently experienced across the prison estate. We noted the inclusion of many of the key themes and recommendations from the IAP's Harris Review [Changing Prisons, Saving Lives](#).

While the report focussed on young male prisoners between the ages of 18-24, many of the recommendations are applicable across the entire prison estate and we look forward to seeing them being introduced, such as:

- establishment of an overarching statutory purpose of the prison system, with a clear vision of what it is there to achieve
- provision of a dedicated officer for six prisoners who can engage with them one-to-one and who has the authority to take forward actions on their behalf
- commitment that staff will be provided with the right tools, training and support to enable them to do their job effectively
- commitment that HMPPS will be increasing the number of prison officers
- Government's commitment to create a reformed estate that will be less crowded, better organised, more effective and comprise modern, fit for purpose accommodation
- the commitment that HMPPS will work closely with the police, Crown Prosecution Service and others across the criminal justice system to ensure a robust and swift approach to tackling criminality in prison.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has made it clear that, regardless of the lack of forthcoming legislation, many of the reforms outlined in the White Paper remain achievable, and he – and Prisons Minister Sam Gyimah – will work to implement them. The IAP will work closely with the Ministerial Board and stakeholders to ensure that these reforms are developed and taken forward effectively.

Update on the work of the IAP

Workstreams

[Preventing the deaths of women in custody](#)

Following the self-inflicted deaths of 12 women in prison in 2016 - the highest recorded number since 2004 - the Panel conducted a rapid expert information gathering exercise in order to advise Ministers and operational leaders and reduce the risk of further tragic deaths.

The IAP received 45 detailed, well-evidenced responses from members of the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody, the Advisory Board on Female Offenders and IAP stakeholders with their views on how best to prevent suicide and self-harm and keeping women safe. At the same time the IAP sought the views of women in prison - particularly those acting as Samaritan Listeners, insiders and responsible peer mentors. In total, the IAP heard from over 60 women in custody.

There was a high degree of agreement across the information received by the IAP. Considering why there has been a sharp and sudden rise in women's deaths in custody, respondents gave five main reasons:

- A reduction in staffing levels combined with the loss of experienced, trusted staff, plus vacancies in mental health teams, and the accompanying reduction in activity, time out of cell and time to listen and talk;
- Unmet mental health, drug and alcohol treatment needs and the discernible increase in the vulnerability and complex needs of women received into prison;
- An increase in illicit drug use, intimidation, bullying and debt in custody;
- A marked decrease in use of release on temporary licence (ROTL), an increased likelihood of homelessness on release and high numbers of recalls;
- The knock on effect of the hasty closure of Holloway prison including increased distance from home and pressure on other establishments combined with the widespread closure of women-only support services in the community.

The IAP Chair presented the paper on the date of publication for discussion to the Advisory Board on Female Offenders (ABFO) chaired by Justice Minister Dr Phillip Lee MP and provided findings and recommendations on [BBC Women's Hour](#).

The working paper, drawing together findings and recommendations, was published on 28 March to coincide with the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's [publication of lessons to be learned from their investigations into the individual deaths of nineteen vulnerable women in custody](#). It is intended that the impact of these two papers will lead to significant practice change in policing, prisons, health and housing services. The IAP is now working closely with senior officials and stakeholders to monitor progress of the recommendations and provide support to the development of government policy in this area.

- Monitoring implementation of Harris Review recommendations – The IAP continues to check on how the recommendations accepted by the Government are implemented.
- Deaths from natural causes – The IAP plans to undertake some work building on the PPO thematic study, to analyse deaths from natural causes in prisons, with a focus on avoidable deaths.
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) - IAP has held discussions with the CQC and Department of Health on (a) the increasing amount of DoLS and (b) the lack of oversight of such deaths following the proposed removal of them from inquests.
- Establish basis for IAP to act as national data source - The IAP is building up a library of research data to aid the synthesis and dissemination of learning:
 - International comparators - The IAP, in collaboration with ICPR at Birkbeck, Penal Reform International and the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust aims to collect international data to inform advice and research, and potentially compare with domestic data.
 - Collation of death in custody statistics - The IAP, in conjunction with the University of Durham, has published the [IAP's 2015 annual statistical report on deaths in state custody](#). Work continues on the 2016 report with a revised timescale.
- Thematic review into deaths of detained patients - The IAP, with the University of Warwick, undertaking analysis of clinical reviews of detained patients who died in 2014.
- The IAP is awaiting the publication of Dame Elish Angiolini's review into deaths and serious incidents in police custody, and stands ready to help with the sharing of learning and implementation of recommendations.

Evidence to review/enquiries

- Discussions with Cabinet Office re: Review of Expert Advice – Dec 2016
- Written evidence provided to Lord Farmer's inquiry on the importance of family contact for those in prison – Dec 2016
- [Written](#) and [oral](#) submissions to Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry on mental health and deaths in prison – February 2017
- Written and oral submission to the Lammy review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals in the criminal justice system (CJS) – April 2017

Stakeholder and public engagement

- Partnership with Inside Time and Prison Radio
 - The IAP is working with [Inside Time](#) and Prison Radio, supported by the Samaritans, to ask prisoners for their views on how best to safeguard those in custody. The initiative was launched in the [February 2017 issue of Inside Time prisoners' newspaper](#) and calls for prisoners to give their insights and recommendations on preventing suicide and self-harm. Further articles have

followed in subsequent issues thanking those who have written in and requesting further ideas. The IAP has received, and replied to, over 100 detailed letters and more than 40 recorded messages from prisoners. Their solutions will be presented to Ministers, operational leads and the Ministerial Board and profiled in the September issue of Inside Time.

- Emerging themes from the letters include: improving first night entry and induction, dealing with spice and debts, avoiding medication delays, mental health awareness training for staff, responding to the plight of IPP prisoners, the need for purposeful activity and family contact, dealing with threats of violence and intimidation, and the need for care and compassion to be shown by staff.
- Institute learning days with bereaved families (with INQUEST) during 2017/18.

Meetings and visits

IAP visits have been conducted to Redhill Police custody suite, Morton Hall IRC, Broadmoor Hospital, the John Howard Centre, HMPs Bristol, Bronzefield, Coldingley, Drake Hall, Eastwood Park, Foston Hall and Woodhill. Meetings have also been convened with colleagues in organisations including HMIP, CQC, PPO, IPCC, Office of Chief Coroner, NHS England, representative bodies and voluntary sector organisations.

Advice to Ministers

- Meeting with Sam Gyimah MP – 24 October 2016
- Meeting with Dr Phillip Lee MP – 23 November 2016
- Meeting with Sam Gyimah MP – 20 February 2017
- Meeting with Nicola Blackwood MP – 1 March 2017
- Meeting with Sam Gyimah MP – 8 March 2017
- Visit to HMP Low Newton with Dr Lee MP – 9 March 2017
- Meeting with Dr Phillip Lee MP – 22 March 2017
- Ministerial forum on prison safety – 12 April 2017
- Scheduled meeting with Secretary of State for Justice pending

IAP Learning Library

The Secretariat acts as a resource for the sharing of learning and information about the means of preventing deaths in custody. In June 2011, the Secretariat launched the **IAP's Learning Library**, which contains learning documents from the criminal justice agencies and third sector organisations which may have cross sector applicability. We are constantly reviewing the content of the Learning Library and want to build this up as a useful national data source. The IAP is also widening its scope to include international research and best practice. If you think there are documents that should be included, please contact the Secretariat.

NEWS

ANNUAL REPORTS AND STATISTICS

Safer in Custody Statistics – July 2017

Safety in custody statistics cover deaths, self-harm and assaults in prison custody in England and Wales. This bulletin was published on 27 July 2017, and includes statistics on deaths in prison custody to June 2017, and assaults and self-harm to March 2017.

The full report and summary tables can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/632625/safety-in-custody-quarterly-bulletin-mar-2017.pdf

HMIP Annual Report 2016-17

This is the second report from the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Peter Clarke. The report highlights the findings from 86 individual inspection reports on prisons, police custody suites, immigration removal centres and other custodial establishments that were published during 2016-17. HMCI Prisons Peter Clarke warned that prison reform will not succeed unless the violence and prevalence of drugs in jail are addressed and prisoners are unlocked for more of the working day.

https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/07/HMIP-AR_2016-17_CONTENT_11-07-17-WEB.pdf

PPO Annual Report 2016-17

This is Nigel Newcomen's sixth and final annual report as Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. In his report, the Ombudsman notes that this year his office won the first national civil service customer service award, on the other hand, this was in the face of an inexorable and mournful rise in demand. Self-inflicted deaths in custody rose 11%, other types of death rose 23% and eligible complaints rose 9%.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PPO_Annual-Report-201617_Interactive.pdf#view=FitH

House of Commons, Justice Committee – Prison Safety, 6th report of session 2015/16

This report examined the Government's response to the deterioration in prison safety in England and Wales which began in 2012. Evidence was taken from the Prisons Minister and the Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service on prison safety in December 2015, and statistics published in January and April 2016 showed higher rates of self-harm and assaults than in the previous 12 months, and significant growth in the number of incidents compared to the previous quarter. The committee wished to reflect on the progress made by the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS in their efforts to stabilise the rise in assaults against prisoners and staff, incidents of self-harm and self-inflicted deaths, and obtained the views of several key stakeholders in writing.

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmjust/625/625.pdf>

CQC Annual Report 2016/17

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. Their full annual report can be found here:

https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20170718_CQC-annual-report-and-accounts-201617.pdf

Bromley Briefings – Autumn 2016

324 people died in prison in the year to September 2016, the highest number on record. A third of these deaths were self-inflicted. Serious assaults in prison have more than doubled in the last three years. Nearly half of the adult male prisons inspected in 2015–16 were judged to be failing on safety. There are statistics in this regular annual briefing which should cause alarm precisely because they are now so familiar. The UK continues to have the highest rate of imprisonment in western Europe. Sentence lengths in the Crown Court have risen by a scarcely believable 30% over ten years. In just two months in the autumn of this year, an unpredicted rise in the population swallowed up the equivalent of a new prison.

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Bromley%20Briefings/Autumn%202016%20Factfile.pdf>

Women in the criminal justice system annual statistics 2015/16

This publication compiles statistics from data sources across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of women who come into contact with it. It considers how these experiences have changed over time and how they contrast to the typical experiences of men. No causative links can be drawn from these summary statistics, and no controls have been applied to account for differences in circumstances between the males and females coming into contact with the CJS (e.g. average income or age); differences observed may indicate areas worth further investigation, but should not be taken as evidence of unequal treatment or as direct effects of sex.

The full report can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572043/women-and-the-criminal-justice-system-statistics-2015.pdf

Learning

House of Lords House of Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights – Mental Health and Deaths in Prison: Interim Report

This short report summarises the considerable amount of work the Committee has done on the inquiry to date and the further work planned. It sets out some provisional conclusions arising from the evidence the Committee has taken. In particular, the Committee proposes some specific measures which we believe should be incorporated into law.

The full report can be found here:

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201617/jtselect/jtrights/893/893.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission – Non-natural deaths following prison and police custody

The deaths of people in the immediate aftermath of state detention have received considerably less attention than the deaths of those who die in custody. This research was commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in October 2015 with the aim of contributing to the understanding of the size and extent of the problem. In order to do this, the EHRC reviewed the existing literature and investigated relevant legal and policy frameworks. They then analysed a number of data sources including the National Offender Management Service, The Prison and Probation Ombudsman and the Independent Police Complaints IPCC. They were also able to carry out a few interviews/focus groups with a small selection of key stakeholders.

The full report can be found at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-106-non-natural-deaths-following-prison-and-police-custody.pdf>

PPO – Learning Lessons Bulletin – Older Prisoners

This report is a thematic review of PPO investigations into naturally-caused deaths of prisoners over 50. It reviews 314 investigations over 2013-2015, and offers 13 lessons on six areas where the PPO frequently make recommendations following investigations into deaths in custody of older prisoners. The six areas it examines in depth are: healthcare and diagnosis; restraints; end of life care; family involvement; early release; and dementia and complex needs.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/6-3460_PPO_Older-Prisoners_WEB.pdf#view=FitH

PPO – Learning Lessons Bulletin – Self-inflicted deaths among women prisoners

Prompted by the recent rise in self-inflicted deaths of women in prison, the bulletin reviewed 19 cases between 2013 and 2016 where women took their own lives. This small sample cannot explain this rise, but does identify a number of important areas of learning, including: better assessment and management of risk, improving suicide and self-harm prevention procedures, addressing mental health issues, combating bullying and ensuring timely emergency responses.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/PPO-Learning-Lessons-Bulletin_Self-inflicted-deaths-among-female-prisoners_WEB.pdf

PPO – Learning Lessons Bulletin – Dementia

In 2013, the National Offender Management Service issued a guide for prison officers, to help them understand dementia and deal more effectively with prisoners who are affected. This bulletin aims to identify some learning from our investigations into deaths of prisoners with dementia, in order to help Prison Service staff respond more effectively to this group of prisoners.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/PPO-Learning-Lessons-Bulletins_fatal-incident-investigations_issue-11_Dementia_WEB_Final.pdf#view=FitH

PPO – Learning Lessons Bulletin – Homicides

The PPO have published a learning lessons bulletin which examines the lessons to be learned from the Ombudsman's investigations into the killing of one prisoner by another. This is the second bulletin they have published on this topic. Homicides are, thankfully, still rare in English and Welsh prisons, although they have increased over recent years. The killing of one prisoner by another in a supposedly secure prison environment remains shocking, and it is essential to seek out any lessons that might prevent these occurrences in future.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/PPO-Learning-Lessons-Bulletin_Homicides_issue-12_WEB.pdf#view=FitH

HMIP – Findings paper - Life in prison: Contact with families and friends

This paper summarises the literature concerning the importance of prisoners maintaining relationships with the outside world and, in particular, with their family and friends. It draws on evidence from recent inspections of adult prisons undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Prisons and survey data from inspection reports published between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016. This paper provides an overview of the ways in which prisoners are able to keep in contact with their family and friends, and how they experience this.

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/08/Contact-with-families-and-friends-findings-paper-2016.pdf>

CQC – Learning, Candour and Accountability

This report describes what CQC found when it reviewed how NHS trusts identify, investigate and learn from the deaths of people under their care. It concludes that many carers and families do not experience the NHS as being open and transparent and that opportunities are missed to learn across the system from deaths that may have been prevented. Many of the NHS staff we heard from shared this view, together with a commitment for this to change.

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20161213-learning-candour-accountability-full-report.pdf>

NICE guidelines

NICE and the Department of Health are working together to develop a guideline on suicide prevention. It will be used to develop the NICE quality standard for suicide prevention and publication is anticipated for Sept 2018.

Link to the project outline and documents can be found at:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-phg95>

Surrey Police guidelines

This paper provides practical instruction and advice for officers on how to deal with incidents of serious illness, deliberate self-harm, deaths in or following custody and deaths following contact with police.

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/policies-and-procedures/deaths-or-serious-injury-dsi-in-custody-or-following-police-contact-procedure/>

Suicide in Prisons: Prisoners' Lives Matter: Graham J Towl, David A Crighton, Toby Harris

"A superb publication and coming at exactly the right time... cuts through the rhetoric with a forensic analysis of the problems coupled with practical, low cost and rapidly achievable recommendations"- John Podmore, International Prisons Consultant and former prison Governor; "Rarely has a book been more timely or pertinent than this one... a thorough, wide-ranging and nuanced account... which contextualises, describes and analyses 36 years of data... a call to arms for those working in penal research, policy and practice"- Philippa Tomczak, University of Sheffield.

The book can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Suicide-Prisons-Prisoners-Lives-Matter/dp/190997644X>

IPCC learning lessons bulletin 29

This bulletin sets out learning from cases covering a range of issues. These include self-harm, sudden illness and hidden injury within the custody setting. In particular, the supply of relevant information to custodial providers, adequate risk assessment and appropriate rousing.

The full report can be found here:

https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/learning-the-lessons/29/LearningtheLessons_Bulletin29_March2017.pdf

Howard League for Penal Reform: Preventing prison suicide – staff perspectives

Centre for Mental Health and the Howard League for Penal Reform are working together to investigate suicide prevention in prisons. The work explores how police, the judiciary, prisons and health care providers can collaborate to prevent people from losing their lives through suicide in prison. This is the fourth in a series of briefings. Centre for Mental Health's earlier briefing presented perspectives of people in or with previous experience of prison (Centre for Mental Health and Howard League, 2016). This briefing discusses the perspectives of staff working in prison as well as those reviewing clinical care post suicide.

The full publication can be accessed at: [Howard League Preventing prison suicide.- Staff perspectives](#)

Deaths of Offenders in the Community 2015/16 Annual Statistics Bulletin

These figures refer to deaths of offenders occurring in the general public, with the possible exception of the small numbers of cases occurring to those residing in approved premises. Approved premises deaths are included in this publication, with figures broken down separately also.

The full publication can be accessed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563124/deaths-of-offenders-in-community-2015-16.pdf

NAO report: Mental health in prisons

Government does not know how many people in prison have a mental illness, how much it is spending on mental health in prisons or whether it is achieving its objectives. It is therefore hard to see how Government can be achieving value for money in its efforts to improve the mental health and well being of prisoners. In 2016 there were 40,161 incidents of self-harm in prisons and 120 self-inflicted deaths.

The full publication can be accessed at:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Mental-health-in-prisons.pdf>

Meetings

Panel meetings are held bi-monthly and minutes are available on the IAP website at <http://iapdeathsincustody.independent.gov.uk/>

Ministerial Board Meeting – November 2016

The twenty-third Ministerial Board met on 8 November 2016 and was hosted at the Home Office with Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, in the Chair. Sam Gyimah, the Prisons and Probation Minister at MoJ and Nicola Blackwood, Public Health and Innovation Minister at Department of Health, were also in attendance. As well as updates from the custodial sectors, the main focus of the meeting was hearing from Lord Harris on the Harris Review and discussing the Government response to its recommendations – including the announcements in the White Paper. The Board also heard from the MoJ Legal Team about funding for families for legal representation at inquests; the Department of Health discussed the forthcoming updated National Suicide Prevention Strategy, and the Prison and Probation Ombudsman gave a summary of his latest learning lessons bulletins on dementia-related deaths and homicides.

A copy of the minutes will be uploaded to the IAP website after they have been endorsed at the next meeting.

Practitioner and stakeholder group

There are currently over 150 members of the practitioner and stakeholder group, drawn from inspectorate and investigative bodies, lawyers, third sector organisations, families, academics and practitioners from the custodial sectors. The Panel would like to encourage practitioners from a range of organisations, particularly mental health settings, as well as families to join the group.

As a member of the group you can expect to receive regular communication with links to relevant news and publications from across the sectors; updates from the IAP website and invitations to stakeholder events.

If you would like to add your name and email address to the practitioner and stakeholder group please contact the Secretariat.

Recruitment of new IAP members

The tenures of the existing panel members (other than the Chair) are coming to an end. The Government will shortly be starting a recruitment campaign for up to four new panel members. We would encourage those who feel they meet the criteria to apply for this important role. Applicants would need to commit three days a month and receive an annual honorarium. Full details, once published, can be found on the Cabinet Office public appointments page:
<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

We will publish a direct link to the recruitment campaign once it goes live.

The Independent Advisory Panel

Chair

Juliet Lyon CBE

Juliet Lyon took up her post as Chair of the Panel in September 2016. Previously, Juliet was the Director of the Prison Reform Trust and Secretary General of Penal Reform International. She is a visiting Professor in the School of Law at Birkbeck, University of London.

Panel Members

Stephen Cragg QC

Stephen Cragg is a barrister specialising in public law, and human rights and sits as a part-time judge for the mental health review tribunal. Stephen has been a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody since 2014.

Dr Dinesh Maganty

Dinesh Maganty is currently Lead Consultant for intensive care for Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust Secure Care Services and a member of the National Clinical reference group for Health and Justice for NHS England. Dinesh has been a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody since 2014.

Dr Meng Aw-Yong

Dr Meng Aw-Yong is a Forensic Medical Examiner and Medical Director for the Metropolitan Police, and currently works in Emergency Medicine at Hillingdon Hospital. Meng has been a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody since 2014.

Prof Graham Towl

Professor Graham Towl is Professor of Forensic Psychology at Durham University, a visiting clinical professor at Newcastle University and a leading expert on suicide. He has previously worked as Pro Vice Chancellor at Durham University, Chief Psychologist at the Ministry of Justice and has been a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody since 2014.

Former members

Matilda MacAttram

Matilda MacAttram is founder and director of Black Mental Health UK (BMH UK), a human rights campaigns group established in 2006 to raise awareness and address the stigma associated with mental illness in the UK's African Caribbean communities. Matilda was a valuable member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody from 2014 to 2017. We are particularly grateful for the contribution she made to the Harris Review.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat acts as support to the Independent Advisory Panel and the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody. They are:

Andrew Fraser - Head of Secretariat: Andrew.fraser1@justice.gov.uk

Kishwar Hyde - Deputy Head of Secretariat: Kishwar.hyde1@justice.gov.uk

Angie Hinksman – Secretariat Support (until April 2017)

The IAP is now based in the Ministry of Justice:

102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

It is an arm's length body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, Department of Health and Home Office.