

**Harris Review Meeting 5**  
**10:30 – 16:30, 19 June 2014, Room 8.29A, 102 Petty France**

**Present:**

**Chair:** Lord Toby Harris (TH)

**Panel Members:** Richard Shepherd (RS), Graham Towl (GT), Dinesh Maganty (DM), Deborah Coles (DC), Matilda MacAttram (MM), Meng Aw Yong (MAY)

**The Harris Review Secretariat:** Deborah Browne (DB), Robyn Malan de Merindol (RM)

**For item 2:** Poppy Harrison (PH)

**Apologies:** Stephen Cragg (SC), Philip Leach (PL)

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1. TH explained to the panel that he meeting that he had written to Jeremy Wright MP explaining his concerns about the support to the Review. It was felt that the impact of this had been immediate, with the Review immediately announced on the MoJ website. In addition, NOMS had agreed to RM remaining with the Secretariat for the rest of the Review and had agreed extra funding for independent research. MoJ had also agreed to fund independent legal advice. TH said that although he was waiting for a formal reply he was expecting it to be supportive.

2. DB confirmed that the list of deaths in scope for the Review had been circulated and panel visits to prisons were being arranged.

3. TH explained that PH was coming to speak for Item 4, and would talk through the processes that had gone into writing the YJB report into deaths in custody. She was not there to defend YJB policy position or answer questions on behalf of the YJB.

4. TH explained that NOMS have indicated to the Secretariat that instead of agreeing that the directors who had been invited to hearings would attend, the NOMS CEO, Michael Spurr, would attend and would himself represent NOMS position.

5. TH circulated a copy of *InsideTime* with the advertisement for the Review, following which four letters from prisoners have already been received.

## **Item 1: Preparation for meeting with Department of Health (DoH)**

6. TH reminded the panel that DoH are co-sponsors of the mainstream Independent Advisory Panel (IAP). GT said that he would like to include questions about the Care Act as this might be something to consider in the recommendations of the Review.

*(Secretary's note: Poppy Harrison joined the meeting)*

## **Item 2: Youth Justice Board**

7. PH explained the background to the YJB Report, *Deaths of Children in Custody: Action Taken, Lessons Learnt* and how they constructed the report. In summary they:

- Took every recommendation that had been made to the YJB in a detailed audit. Each was considered afresh and the response to them was updated as necessary;
- Checked that all reflections and recommendations were actually there in practice;
- Provided definitions of terminology (e.g. vulnerability);
- Clarify who the recommendations are for.

8. YJB are providing a formal response to the Harris Review *Call for Submissions* and will include:

- Any concerns about secure colleges;
- The effects of decommissioning Secure Children's Homes places;
- The role of monitoring, it should be more focussed on risk than contract compliance;
- Reducing bullying; the Restorative Justice approach that could be used in the Adult Estate;
- How placement decisions are made;
- The safer environment ongoing programme
- Themes and funding for looked after children.

9. PH will provide the YJB programme of work around BME, managing and minimising physical restraint is at the core of this work.