



Home Office

Home Secretary

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www.gov.uk/home-office

Juliet Lyon CBE
Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

Dear Juliet,

17th January 2023

Thank you for your follow up letter of 14 October, on behalf of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC), raising concerns about the Government's plan for immigration processing in Rwanda.

Decisions for relocation to Rwanda will be taken on a case-by-case basis and nobody will be relocated if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them. The suitability criteria for inadmissibility is set out in the guidance available on gov.uk
www.gov.uk/government/publications/inadmissibility-third-country-cases

I can assure you that everyone considered for relocation will be screened and all available information will be taken into account when assessing whether to serve an individual with a Notice of Intent. The Notice of Intent gives individuals the opportunity to raise any reasons why their relocation may not be appropriate, and all representations will be considered before relocation.

The Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987019/6.7166_HO_FBIS_BN_O_Leaflet_A4_FINAL_080321_WEB.pdf, applies to all individuals in detention, including those being considered for relocation under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP). The Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy provides guidance for officials making decisions on the appropriateness of detention for individuals considered to be particularly vulnerable to harm in immigration detention. All detention decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

All immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses commissioned by NHS E and delivered to the equivalent quality standards as services are in the community. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival and, in line with Rule 34 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, are offered a physical and mental examination with a doctor within 24 hours. Individuals also have access to a complete range of medical care whilst they are in an IRC including their primary care, dentistry, substance misuse treatment services and mental health care.

In addition, all individuals detained in an IRC can access assistance and support from welfare officers to plan their re-integration, resettlement in the country of their return and receive help in accessing support specific to their needs.

Detention Services Order 07/2013 Welfare provision in IRCs, sets out the minimum requirements for the provision of welfare services for detained individuals. This can be found on gov.uk at the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welfare-provision-in-immigration-removal-centres-ircs>.

In relation to the MEDP, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed and, in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 15 of the MoU, the Monitoring Committee will report upon the participants implementation of understandings, as set out in the MoU, and will have unfettered access for the purposes of completing assessments and reports for the entire end to end process, including selection. The MoU can be found on gov.uk at the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda>.

The Monitoring Committee is made up of senior independent experts who we expect to set out an annual plan with the details of the information gathering work in due course. They will have a wide discretion on what is included within the parameters set out above. Nothing prohibits the Monitoring Committee from considering the questions raised by the IAPDC if they consider that this is required to assess compliance with the assurances in the MOU and Notes Verbales and we expect, given their experience, that they will be mindful of the points raised. The terms of reference for the Monitoring Committee can be found on gov.uk at the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitoring-committee-migration-and-economic-development-partnership/monitoring-committee-terms-of-reference-tor>.

I trust that you find this reply helpful in addressing the points raised by the IAPDC. If you would like to visit an IRC in the new year, please contact my office who will be able to make the appropriate arrangements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suella Braverman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP