

National Statistician's Review of Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) statistics on deaths during or following police contact

Terms of Reference

Aim of the review

- Conduct an independent statistical review into the collation, analysis and presentation of IPCC official statistics on deaths during or following police contact and the ten year study of deaths in police custody.
- Ascertain if the statistics accurately reflect the totality of all deaths during or following police contact.
- Gain a full understanding of the factors that led to public criticism of the statistics, on and around 31 January 2012 and what basis in fact those concerns have.
- Make recommendations which address the concerns of the users of the statistics and assist the producers to take actions that address concerns in public confidence in the statistics.
- Complete the review by 31 March 2012.
- Publish a report on the National Statistician's pages of the UK Statistics Authority website and on the IPCC website.

Background

- A number of media organisations presented news items on Tuesday 31 January which were critical of IPCC figures on deaths following police contact, and in particular figures on cases involving the use of restraint by police officers.
- Two specific criticisms are made against the IPCC:
 - Some specific, high profile cases are not properly classified in the figures as deaths in custody
 - The figures involving police restraint are incorrect
- The review will examine statistical releases and analytical reports in the public domain, public statements made by IPCC officials, the views of concerned users of the statistics and the relationship between the IPCC statisticians and the Home Office Head of Profession for statistics. The scope of the review may be extended if initial investigations deem it necessary.
- This independent National Statistician's review was initiated by Jil Matheson at the request of the Chief Executive of the IPCC.
- The review will be conducted by Tim Andrews of the National Statistician's Office, assisted by Claire Bradshaw.