

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
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13 January 2012

Dear Mr Vaz

Re: Parliamentary Question

I have been asked by the Home Office to respond to your Parliamentary Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deaths in police custody there were in each month since 1 January 2010

The IPCC is responsible for the annual publication of statistics relating to deaths following police contact in England and Wales. This includes statistics relating to deaths in police custody.

The table below shows the monthly number of deaths in police custody from January 2010 to March 2011. The 2011/12 statistics are not yet available but we hope to be in a position to publish these in July 2012. Once published, this report will become available on our website at www.ipcc.gov.uk but I will also ensure that your office is sent a copy.

Year	Month of Death	Total
2010	Jan	0
	Feb	3
	Mar	0
	Apr	2
	May	2
	Jun	3
	Jul	2
	Aug	2
	Sep	3
	Oct	0
	Nov	0
	Dec	2
2011	Jan	0
	Feb	0
	Mar	5
Total		24

Death and serious injury in police custody is one of the Commission's six priority areas. We recognise that these very serious matters can impact on public trust and confidence both in the IPCC and in the police service more generally. We are undertaking work to ensure that lessons can be learnt from policy and practice to prevent custody deaths and serious injuries re-occurring in the future. We are also a key member of the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody and take an active role in maximising opportunities for cross-sector collaboration to improve practice and outcomes in relation to deaths in custody.

You may also be interested to know that we have published a detailed research report examining death in custody cases between 1998/99 and 2008/09. This report can be found on our website at:

<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/deathscustodystudy.aspx>.

If you wish to discuss our work in this area further, then I am sure that our relevant Commissioner leads, Mike Franklin and Sarah Green, would be happy to meet with you. Mike and Sarah can be contacted via their assistant, Suhail Ahmed on 020 7166 3283.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Furniss', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Furniss
Chief Executive

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)