**Press Statement – Independent Oversight Panel (IOP)**

The Independent Oversight Panel (IOP) was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary in early 2017. The Panel was to oversee the process for the HASCAS investigation and the Ockenden governance review.

In particular, the IOP was tasked with:

1. Ensuring the reports were produced free of undue influence,
2. Ensuring the investigator/reviewer had access to records required to undertake their work,
3. Ensuring that the report production followed proper processes, were evidence based and published as soon as possible,
4. Seeking to ensure HASCAS/Ockenden and relevant local authorities and other partners share information on a timely basis.

The IOP has been assisted in carrying out it’s duties by an experienced QC.

The IOP is satisfied with the process followed by HASCAS, the application of regulations, and the provision of evidence. The IOP is also assured that the HASCAS report has been produced without bias or undue influence.

The judgements in the report are those of the investigator and the team of experts employed for the purpose. The IOP has no role with regard to the judgements made.