

MAN DIES IN PENNINE HOUSE SHORT TERM HOLDING FACILITY

We are extremely saddened to learn of the death of a Pakistani national in Pennine House, the short term holding facility in Manchester airport, on Friday. Our thoughts are with his family, and with those affected by his death.

This brings the total number of deaths in- or on leaving- immigration detention since 2010 to eight.

Immigration detention is without time limit in the UK, and around 27,000 people are held each year. The UK's detention estate is one of the largest in Europe and while most are held in longer-stay facilities, many will spend time in a short term holding facility, like Pennine House, at a particularly vulnerable time- on their way in or out of the country.

AVID has been concerned for some time that the provision in short term holding facilities falls short of the standards in other facilities. There is no published equivalent to the Statutory 'Detention Centre Rules' which govern longer-stay detention facilities. These Rules include the minimum provisions in detention on, for example, access to healthcare.

We call for this death to be the subject of an independent investigation. We also urge the Home Office to publish the Short Term Holding Facility Rules as a matter of urgency.

Ali McGinley
AVID, 29th July 2013