

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Stephen Riley, a prisoner at HMP Bure, on 13 August 2023

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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OUR VISION

To deliver high quality and timely independent investigations and work closely with partners to achieve tangible benefits for the safety and confidence of those in custody and under community supervision.

WHAT WE DO



WHAT WE VALUE



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1. The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman aims to make a significant contribution to safer, fairer custody and community supervision. One of the most important ways in which we work towards that aim is by carrying out independent investigations into deaths, due to any cause, of prisoners, young people in detention, residents of approved premises and detainees in immigration centres.
2. If my office is to best assist His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in ensuring the standard of care received by those within service remit is appropriate, our recommendations should be focused, evidenced and viable. This is especially the case if there is evidence of systemic failure.
3. Mr Stephen Riley died in hospital of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (blood cancer) on 13 August 2023, while a prisoner at HMP Bure. He was 52 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Riley's family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Riley's clinical care at Bure. She concluded that the clinical care Mr Riley received at Bure was of a good standard and was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She noted that Mr Riley was often non-compliant with his treatment and that in her view, the healthcare team did everything they could to encourage him to comply. She made no recommendations.
5. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Riley's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
6. We shared our initial report with HMPPS. They found no factual inaccuracies.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

January 2024

Inquest

The inquest, held on 29 April 2024, concluded that Mr Riley died from natural causes.

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