

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Patrick Mugford, a prisoner at HMP Littlehey, on 17 December 2023

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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. On 6 May 2022, Mr Patrick Mugford was sentenced to seven years in prison for sexual offences.
4. Mr Mugford died in hospital from aspiration pneumonia (an infection caused by inhaling food or liquid into the lungs) on 17 December 2023, while a prisoner at HMP Littlehey. This was caused by bilateral multiple cerebral infarctions (strokes on both sides of the brain, which occur because of disrupted blood flow to the brain). This was in turn caused by Type 2 diabetes. He was 69 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Mugford's family and friends.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Mugford's clinical care at HMP Littlehey.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Mugford received at HMP Littlehey was of a good standard and was at least equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found evidence in his medical records that healthcare staff responded appropriately and proactively to Mr Mugford's healthcare needs.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Mugford's care.
8. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

June 2024

At an inquest held on 13 June 2024, the Coroner concluded that Mr Mugford died of natural causes.

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