

**Prisons &  
Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

# **Independent investigation into the death of Mr Gerald Raffell, a prisoner at HMP Littlehey, on 9 January 2024**

**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. In February 2023, Mr Gerald Raffell was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for sexual offences. He died of lung cancer on 9 January 2024, at HMP Littlehey. He was 75 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Raffell's family and friends.
4. The Ombudsman's office contacted Mr Raffell's son to explain the investigation and to ask if he had any matters he wanted us to consider. He did not respond to our letter.
5. NHS England commissioned independent clinical reviewers to review Mr Raffell's clinical care at HMP Littlehey.
6. The clinical reviewers concluded that the clinical care Mr Raffell received was of a very good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. They found that Mr Raffell's medical records contained evidence of excellent care by clinical and custodial staff. They made no recommendations.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Raffell'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.
10. At the inquest held on 14 May 2024 the coroner concluded that Mr Raffell died of natural causes.

**Adrian Usher**  
**Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

**June 2024**

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