



Independent investigation into the death of Mr Raymond Paterson, a prisoner at HMP Fosse Way, on 1 July 2024

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 4 May 2022, Mr Raymond Paterson was sentenced to three years imprisonment for sexual offences.
4. Mr Paterson died of pleural empyema (an abscess) caused by squamous cell carcinoma of the lung (lung cancer), on 1 July 2024, while a prisoner at HMP Fosse Way. He was 79 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Paterson's family and friends.
5. The Ombudsman's office contacted Mr Paterson's family to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. We did not receive a response.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Paterson's care.
7. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.
8. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Paterson's clinical care at Fosse Way.
9. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Paterson received at Fosse Way was of a good standard and equivalent to what he could have expected to receive in the community.
10. He did, however, find that healthcare staff did not conduct a second stage health assessment upon Mr Paterson's arrival at Fosse Way, which would have provided an opportunity to identify the need for a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) care plan – which was never created. We make the following recommendations:

The Head of Healthcare should ensure all new arrivals and transfers to prison should receive a second stage health assessment within 7 days of arrival.

11. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS pointed out some factual inaccuracies and this report has been amended accordingly.

12. At the inquest held on 25 November 2024, the Coroner concluded that Mr Paterson died of pleural empyema caused by squamous cell carcinoma of the lung (lung cancer).

**Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

January 2025



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