

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr David Butler, a prisoner at HMP Holme House, on 25 March 2024

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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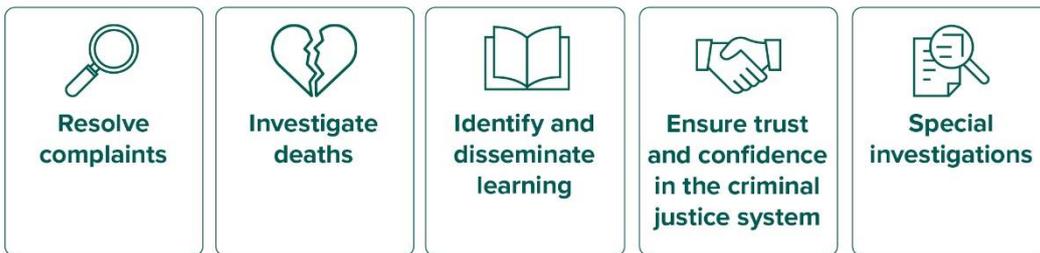
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OUR VISION

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 July 2018, Mr David Butler was sentenced to six years and six months imprisonment for drug offences. He died of pancreatic cancer on 25 March 2024, at HMP Holme House. He was 53 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Butler's family and friends.
4. The Ombudsman's office contacted Mr Butler's sister to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. She did not respond to our letter.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Butler's clinical care at Holme House.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Butler received was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made no recommendations.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Butler'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 13 August 2024 the coroner concluded that Mr Butler died of natural causes.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

August 2024

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