

15 August 2024

To whom it may concern,

My name is Richard Tucker and I am the Senior Investigator leading Operation Deerness.

Operation Deerness is the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's (PPO) independent special investigation into the abuse suffered by detainees at Medomsley Detention Centre (Medomsley) between 1961 and 1987.

The PPO carries out independent investigations into complaints and deaths in custody and we were commissioned to undertake this investigation by the previous government on 24 October 2023. The scope of the investigation is to determine what authorities knew about the abuse that took place at Medomsley, whether there were opportunities for authorities to have taken action or intervened at that time, and what actions (if any) were taken in such instances.

I would like to stress that this is not a police enquiry. We will not be re-investigating the allegations made during any of the previous police investigations into Medomsley.

We ask that anyone who worked or volunteered at Medomsley in **any** capacity over the period stated contact us and share their experiences with us.

Whether you were a prison officer, teacher, probation officer, social worker, or a volunteer at the centre, we want and need to hear from you.

You may have worked outside the centre as a local taxi or bus driver, or at a local hospital and had contact with the centre's staff and or inmates. If so, we are also keen to hear from you – every story matters.

Some former members of staff have already generously given us their time and we would like to thank all those people who have already spoken with us. This has given us valuable insight into their working experiences at Medomsley.

I know that some of you may have previously been spoken to or were interviewed by Operation Seabrook, and that you may have reservations about re-visiting some of these issues. However, I encourage you to contact us because your help is vital in enabling us to build an accurate picture of how Medomsley operated during this time. Your expertise, experience, and knowledge of Medomsley would aid in resolving many unanswered

questions, helping us to gain a greater understanding of the issues, and preventing similar occurrences in the future.

Please contact my investigative team via email at:
ppomedomsleyinvestigation@ppo.gov.uk.

Access to the mailbox is restricted and all correspondence is strictly confidential. Any information shared with us will be handled confidentially and will not be shared without your consent. Alternatively, you can call or text 07511 165 266. You can also contact us anonymously online, via our questionnaire: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MCFWJF/>

Your help is hugely appreciated. Please do reach out to us if you would like to engage with our investigation.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Tucker
Senior Investigator, Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

The Terms of Reference for the investigation are available at:
<https://ppo.gov.uk/document/terms-of-reference-medomsley-special-investigation/>