Prisons & Probation Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Mark Woolley, a prisoner at HMP Wayland, on 5 February 2024

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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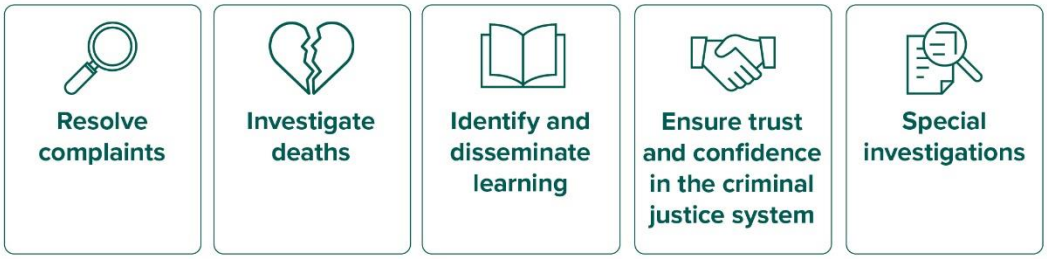
OUR VISION

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

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 December 2000, Mr Mark Woolley was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. He died in hospital of lung cancer on 5 February 2024, while a prisoner at HMP Wayland. He was 58 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Woolley's family and friends.

4. The Ombudsman's office contacted Mr Woolley's next of kin, his brother, to explain the investigation and to ask if he had any matters he wanted us to consider. He had no questions but asked for a copy of our report.

5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Woolley's clinical care at Wayland.

6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Woolley received at Wayland was of a good standard and 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 Woolley's care.

8. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.

9. We shared our initial report with HMPPS and the prison's healthcare provider, Practice Plus Group. They found no factual inaccuracies.

10. We sent a copy of our initial report to Mr Woolley's next of kin. They did not notify us of any factual inaccuracies.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman **November 2024**

Inquest

The inquest, held on 23 December 2024, concluded that Mr Woolley died from natural causes.

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