

11 November 2024

**Reference: FOI 579 Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email, which we received on 21 October 2024. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**You asked us:**

For information on how many people commit suicide in prison every year, how many people die in prison each year and how many people die at the hands of fellow prisoners each year. You asked for this information to be split into male and female categories and to cover the last five years.

**Our response:**

We have searched our records and we hold the requested information on the above questions.

A copy of the information that you requested is shown below.

**Self-inflicted deaths in prison**

Financial year	Number of deaths	Gender
2019-2020	81	77 Male, 4 Female
2020-2021	78	76 Male, 2 Female
2021-2022	76	74 Male, 2 Female
2022-2023	83	80 Male, 2 Female, 1 transgender woman (assigned male at birth)
2023-2024	81	78 Male, 3 Female
2024-2025 (up until 30 September 2024)	36	34 Male, 2 Female

## All deaths in prison

Financial year	Number of deaths	Gender
2019-2020	289	283 Male, 6 Female
2020-2021	405	395 Male, 10 Female
2021-2022	287	281 Male, 6 Female
2022-2023	321	314 Male, 7 Female; 1 transgender woman (assigned male at birth)
2023-2024	292	283 Male, 9 Female
2024-2025 (up until 30 September 2024)	161	155 Male, 6 Female

## Homicide deaths in prison

Financial year	Number of deaths	Gender
2019-2020	3	3 Male, 0 Female
2020-2021	1	1 Male, 0 Female
2021-2022	1	1 Male, 0 Female
2022-2023	3	3 Male, 0 Female
2023-2024	1	1 Male, 0 Female
2024-2025 (up until 30 September 2024)	3	3 Male, 0 Female

Please note that we have provided the number of deaths for the last five financial years 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 and the current financial year up to 30 September 2024.

I hope that this is helpful.

You have the right to appeal against our response if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) carries out **independent investigations** into complaints and deaths in custody. The detailed role and responsibilities of the PPO are set out in our office's Terms of Reference. The PPO has three main duties:

- to **investigate complaints** made by prisoners, young people in detention (prisons and secure training centres), offenders under probation supervision and individuals detained under immigration powers (detained individuals)
- to **investigate deaths** of prisoners, young people in detention, approved premises' residents and detained individuals due to any cause, including any apparent suicides and natural causes
- to **investigate deaths of recently released prisoners** that occur within 14 days of release from prison (except homicide)

The purpose of these investigations is **to understand what happened, to correct injustices** and **to identify learning** for the organisations whose actions we oversee so that the PPO makes a significant contribution to safer, fairer custody and offender supervision.

We may use or share your data only to the necessary extent when conducting our independent investigations in the exercise of our official authority. We will share your data with third parties (e.g. the prison) in order to make sure the information is accurate; to prevent or detect failings; and to identify lessons learnt. We may sometimes need to share your data with third parties if required by law. We only keep your personal data for as long as it is needed, as set out in our data retention policy. If you need any further information about how your data is used, please contact us.

## How to Appeal

### Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office **within two months of the date of this letter**, at the following address:

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman  
Third Floor  
10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU  
E-mail: Mail@ppo.gov.uk

### Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the ICO at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Internet address: <https://ico.org.uk/>