

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Graham Williams, a prisoner at HMP Prescoed, on 10 November 2023

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



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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 HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in ensuring the standard of care received by those within service remit is appropriate then our recommendations should be focused, evidenced and viable. This is especially the case if there is evidence of systemic failure.
3. On 15 June 2021, Mr Graham Williams was sentenced to 5 years and 8 months in prison for drug offences. On 14 August 2023, he was transferred to HMP Prescoed.
4. Mr Williams died of herpes simplex virus encephalitis (a virus of the brain) on 10 November 2023. He was 70 years old. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.
5. Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Williams' clinical care at HMP Prescoed. He concluded that the clinical care Mr Williams received at Prescoed was of a very high standard and at times exceeded that which he could have expected to receive in the community. He found that the care was holistic and compassionate, and he made no recommendations. He suggested that the Head of Healthcare should share his positive review of the care Mr Williams received with relevant staff at Prescoed.
6. The PPO family liaison officer wrote to Mr Williams' niece to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. She had no questions but asked for a copy of the report.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Williams' care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
8. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS found some inaccuracies to the clinical review which have been addressed.
9. Mr Williams' niece received a copy of the initial report. She did not make any comments.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

April 2024

Inquest

The inquest, held on 7 June 2024, concluded that Mr Williams died from natural causes.

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