



Independent investigation into the death of Mr Alan Hobbs, a prisoner at HMP Full Sutton, on 5 September 2024

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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 August 1999, Mr Hobbs was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. He died of bilateral pneumonia (infection of both lungs) on 5 September 2024 at HMP Full Sutton. He had been diagnosed with tonsillar cancer (throat cancer) which contributed to but did not cause his death. He was 57 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Hobbs' family and friends.
4. The Ombudsman's office wrote to Mr Hobbs' next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. They did not respond.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Hobbs' clinical care at Full Sutton.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Hobbs received at Full Sutton was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. He found that Mr Hobbs' medical records contained evidence of appropriate individualised end of life care planning.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Hobbs' 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 did not find any factual inaccuracies.

**Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

January 2025

Inquest

The inquest hearing was held on 1 May 2025. The Coroner concluded that Mr Hobbs died of natural causes.



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