

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Maurice Holiday, a prisoner at HMP Northumberland, on 27 July 2025

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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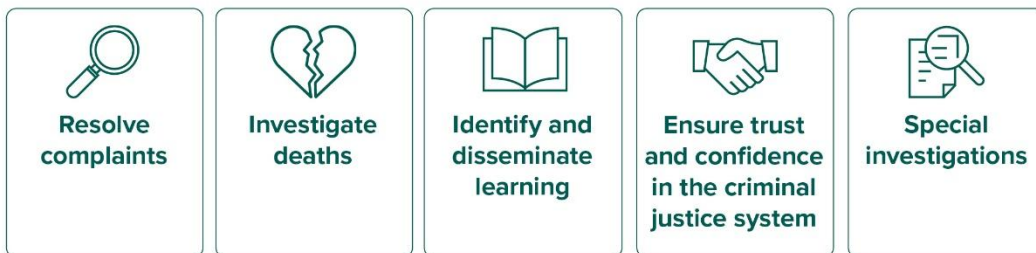
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OUR VISION

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 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 February 2020, Mr Maurice Holiday was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment for sexual offences. He died of ischaemic heart disease (when there is not enough blood in the heart) caused by coronary artery atheroma (build-up of fatty deposits in the arteries near the heart). He was 80 years old when he died on 27 July 2025, at HMP Northumberland. We offer our condolences to Mr Holiday's family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Holiday's clinical care at HMP Northumberland.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Holiday received at Northumberland was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. He found that Mr Holiday's medical records contained evidence of reasonable care plans for his heart related diseases and diabetes. The clinical reviewer made recommendations not related to Mr Holiday's death that the Head of Healthcare will wish to address.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Holiday's care.
7. 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 2026

Inquest

The inquest into Mr Holiday's death was held on 28 January 2026. The Coroner concluded that Mr Holiday died of natural causes.

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