

**Prisons &
Probation**

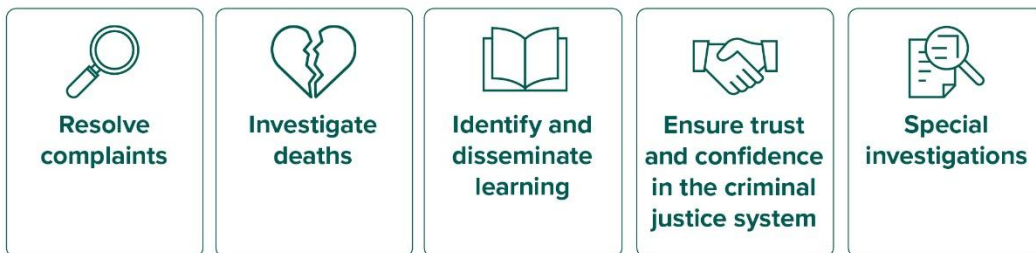
Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

**Independent investigation into
the death of Mr Barry Ford,
a prisoner at HMP Littlehey, on
29 August 2025**

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 December 2012, Mr Barry Ford was sentenced to 18 years in prison for sex offences. He died of normal pressure hydrocephalus (a brain condition) caused by frailty in old age, on 29 August 2025, at HMP Littlehey. He was 77 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Ford's family and friends.
4. Littlehey told us that Mr Ford had no identified next of kin.
5. NHS England commissioned, an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Ford's clinical care at Littlehey.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Ford received at Littlehey was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She was satisfied that the relevant care plans were in place and that Mr Ford was reviewed regularly by the palliative nurse. She also found that the end-of-life care was of a high standard. The clinical reviewer did not make any recommendations.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Ford's care.
8. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.
10. At an inquest held on 8 October 2025, the Coroner concluded that Mr Ford died of natural causes.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

April 2026

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