

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Jordan Everington, on 8 November 2025, following his release from HMP Holme House

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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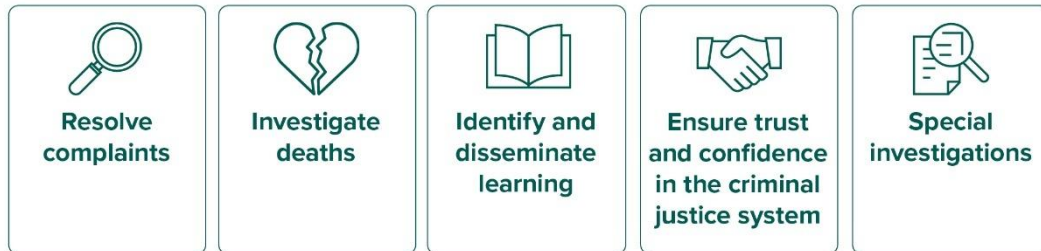
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OUR VISION

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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Summary

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. Since 6 September 2021, the PPO has investigated post-release deaths that occur within 14 days of the person's release from prison.
3. 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.
4. Mr Jordan Everington died from cocaine toxicity on 8 November 2025 following his release from HMP Holme House on 30 October. He was 23 years old. We offer our condolences to those who knew him.
5. Mr Everington had a long history of drug use. He was warned of the dangers of drug use and offered appropriate support. We did not identify any significant learning relating to the pre-release planning or post-release supervision of Mr Everington.
6. We make no recommendations.

The Investigation Process

7. HMPPS notified us of Mr Everington's death on 17 November 2025.
8. The PPO investigator obtained copies of relevant extracts from Mr Everington's prison and probation records and information from Cleveland Police.
9. We informed HM Coroner for Teesside and Hartlepool Coroner of the investigation. She gave us the results of the post-mortem examination. We have sent the Coroner a copy of this report.
10. The Ombudsman's office contacted Mr Everington's next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. They did not reply.
11. We shared our initial report with HMPPS. They found no factual inaccuracies.

Background Information

HMP Holme House

12. HMP Holme House is a men's local prison, operated by HMPPS. Spectrum Community Health CIC is the main provider of healthcare services. Humankind provides substance misuse psychosocial services.

Probation Service

13. The Probation Service works with all individuals subject to custodial and community sentences. During a person's imprisonment, they oversee their sentence plan to assist in rehabilitation, prepare reports to advise the Parole Board and have links with local partnerships to which they refer people for resettlement services, where appropriate. Post-release, the Probation Service supervises people throughout their licence period and post-sentence supervision.

Deaths following release from prison

14. Between September 2021 and the end of March 2026, the PPO started investigations into approximately 300 deaths of people who died within 14 days of release from prison. The PPO has published two learning lessons bulletins about post-release deaths, most recently in July 2024. Our investigations highlight the acute vulnerability of prison leavers, especially during the first few days post-release, and indicate that prison leavers often have multiple risk factors such as mental health and substance use issues and homelessness which further increase their vulnerability and risk of death following release from prison.

Previous deaths following release from HMP Holme House

15. Mr Everington was the ninth man to die within 14 days of release from Holme House since November 2022, until April 2026. Four of those deaths (including Mr Everington's) have been confirmed as drug related. One is still under investigation. In the other three, we found that the men received appropriate pre-release planning and post-release supervision.

Key Events

Background

16. On 19 April 2024, Mr Jordan Everington was sentenced to 22 months in prison for violent disorder. He was released on licence on 9 September 2025.
17. On 4 October, Mr Everington was recalled to prison for breaching his licence conditions and sent to HMP Holme House.
18. During his reception health screening, Mr Everington told the nurse he used cocaine and misused prescription drugs including pregabalin (used to treat epilepsy, nerve pain and anxiety, but also widely abused as it can increase the euphoric effects of other drugs such as opioids) and diazepam (a benzodiazepine, used to treat anxiety, muscle spasms, and seizures, but also widely abused). Mr Everington tested positive for cocaine and buprenorphine (a strong opioid pain killer).
19. On 5 October, Mr Everington told the nurse he took zopiclone (sleeping tablets) and diazepam a couple of days before coming into prison and was taking approximately 14 tablets a day. Healthcare staff monitored Mr Everington over the next few days.
20. On 6 October, a health care assistant (HCA) visited Mr Everington in his cell to monitor drug withdrawal symptoms. Mr Everington refused to engage with the HCA. The HCA saw him again later that day for a DART (Drug and Alcohol Recovery Treatment) induction. Mr Everington asked to go back to his cell and do the assessment on a later date, as he was not feeling well.
21. On 7 October, staff found Mr Everington in his cell under the influence of an unknown substance. He declined to complete a DART assessment saying he did not have a drug or alcohol problem. The nurse advised him how to access support services if he changed his mind.
22. On 9 October, Mr Everington completed his DART assessment. He said he had previously worked with DART in prison and said he had taken illicit drugs (sleeping tablets) in prison a couple of days earlier. Staff gave him advice about illicit drug use in custody, to help keep him safe. He agreed to be referred to a drug support service in the community and staff advised him how to access support and naloxone (a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose) in the community if needed.

Pre-release planning

23. On 6 October, Holme House's pre-release team liaised with Mr Everington's Community Offender Manager (COM).
24. On 8 October, the pre-release team referred Mr Everington to a service that supports released prisoners with their housing needs.
25. On 14 October, Mr Everington's Prison Offender Manager (POM) emailed Mr Everington's COM offering support to work with Mr Everington while in custody.

26. On 15 October, a drug recovery coordinator met with Mr Everington. Mr Everington said he did not need additional support while in prison. He agreed to be referred to a community drug service for his release. He asked to speak to the pre-release team about his accommodation needs.
27. On 16 October, Mr Everington did not attend a meeting with a housing provider.
28. On 21 October, staff made a referral to a community drug support service for 31 October (the day after Mr Everington's release).
29. On 23 October, Mr Everington's POM asked him if there was any support he needed and if he had any concerns linked to his release. Mr Everington said he did not and refused any support. The POM told him to contact her if he changed his mind.
30. On 29 October, a drug recovery coordinator met with Mr Everington. They gave Mr Everington an appointment to attend his community appointment with Redcar Community Team (We Are With You) on 31 October. To help keep Mr Everington safe after release, they gave him a harm reduction release pack and harm reduction advice about lowered tolerance to drugs and risks of overdose. They warned Mr Everington to only use illicit substances in small amounts, and not to use drugs alone.
31. Mr Everington did not receive a naloxone kit on release as he did not have a history of opiate use so was not eligible for a naloxone kit.
32. Mr Everington did not report any concerns about his physical or mental health.

Post-release management/release from HMP Holme House

33. On 30 October, Mr Everington was released from Holme House. He reported to the probation office on the same day. A probation practitioner told the investigator that Mr Everington presented well at the appointment. They discussed his licence conditions, expectations and confirmed Mr Everington would live with his grandmother while he was supported to access housing. The probation practitioner told Mr Everington to attend the probation office again on 4 November. Mr Everington asked for a text message reminder.
34. On 31 October, Mr Everington did not attend his scheduled appointment with Redcar Community Team. His COM told the investigator he would have sought Mr Everington's reason for not attending this appointment. Depending on Mr Everington's reason, his COM said he might have issued a licence compliance warning to Mr Everington for failing to address his offending behaviour, but due to the following events, he could not discuss this breach with Mr Everington.

Circumstances of Mr Everington's death

35. On 2 November, Cleveland Police received a report of an arson attack on a house in Redcar.
36. On 3 November, Cleveland Police told the Probation Service they wanted to speak to Mr Everington in relation to offences of criminal damage and arson with intent to

endanger life. Cleveland Police said they were concerned that Mr Everington was injured and they were treating him as a high-risk missing person.

37. On 4 November, Mr Everington did not attend his probation appointment. His COM rang Mr Everington who said he did not attend because he was wanted by the police. Mr Everington said he was not injured, except a slight cut on his hand. Mr Everington said he did not want to return to prison. Mr Everington's COM told him that to prevent returning to prison he must attend his probation appointment and contact police. Mr Everington agreed to attend the probation office on 5 November. He did not attend.
38. On 6 November, Mr Everington's COM sent him a text message instructing him to attend the probation office at 11.00am. He did not attend. His COM rang Mr Everington. He did not answer.
39. On the same day, the COM rang Mr Everington's grandfather. His grandfather said he had not been in contact with Mr Everington and did not know where he was or how to contact him. The COM rang Mr Everington's mother. He asked her to contact Mr Everington and encourage him to attend the probation office. She told the COM that her son thought he was setting a trap so the police could arrest him. The COM told her that was not true and stressed that if Mr Everington wished to remain in the community, he needed to attend his probation appointment.
40. Later that day, the COM visited Mr Everington's home address. He was not at home. The COM also visited the home of Mr Everington's mother. She said that she had not seen or heard from her son for several days.
41. Mr Everington's COM and his manager agreed that if Mr Everington did not attend the probation office on 7 November a recall to prison was necessary. Mr Everington did not attend, and the COM started recall procedures.
42. On 8 November, Cleveland Police responded to reports of a man attempting to break into a house in Redcar. When police arrived, the man had gone. Police later attended another property in response to reports a man was behaving suspiciously.
43. Police responded to a third call that same day, when a member of the public said he heard someone rolling around on the ground, in a field behind his house.
44. Police searched the area and found an unresponsive man nearby. The police and ambulance services performed CPR. He did not recover. This man was identified as Mr Everington.

Post-mortem report

45. The post-mortem concluded that Mr Everington died from cocaine toxicity.

Findings

46. Mr Everington had a long history of drug use. Staff at Holme House encouraged him to accept support in prison and after release. They gave him advice to help minimise the risk of harm to him in the community if he continued to use drugs. They referred Mr Everington to a community drug support team and imposed a condition on his release licence to undergo regular drug testing. Mr Everington's COM agreed to him living with his grandmother, so Mr Everington was not homeless, and provided support to find alternative housing.
47. When Mr Everington failed to attend his probation appointments, his COM made multiple attempts to contact Mr Everington, including visiting his address and contacting family members. He then started recall procedures, but Mr Everington died before the recall could be actioned.
48. We are satisfied that Mr Everington had appropriate pre-release planning and post-release supervision. We make no recommendations.
49. At the inquest, held on 16 June 2026, the Coroner concluded that Mr Everington's death was drug related.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

June 2026

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