

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Phillip Chandler, a prisoner at HMP Oakwood, on 29 November 2025

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

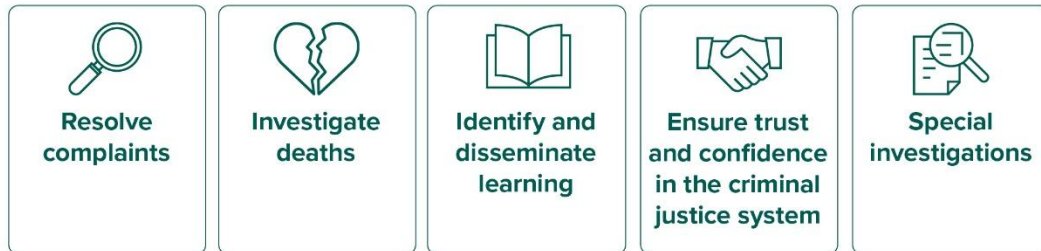
Email: mail@ppo.gov.uk
Web: www.ppo.gov.uk

T | 020 7633 4100

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



© Crown copyright, 2026

This report is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

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 2011, Mr Phillip Chandler was sentenced to life imprisonment for grievous bodily harm with intent. His tariff (the minimum amount of time he would spend in prison) was 32 months. He died of squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue and throat (cancerous growth of skin cells) on 29 November 2025 in HMP Oakwood. Metastatic disease (cancer that spread across the body), exhaustion from progression of the disease, and terminal cachexia (severe weight loss) contributed but did not cause Mr Chandler's death. He was 65 years old. We offer our condolences to those who knew Mr Chandler.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Chandler's clinical care at Oakwood.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Chandler received at Oakwood was of a very high standard and at least equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Chandler's medical records contained evidence of excellent and compassionate end of life care planning. She highlighted the united approach between healthcare staff in prison and the Marie Curie specialist palliative service. She made no recommendations.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Chandler'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.

Good practice

9. Medical records show that a doctor (specialist nurse from Marie Curie community specialist palliative service) played the harp and a healthcare assistant read to Mr Chandler in the days before his death. These are two examples from many that evidence how compassionate staff were to Mr Chandler. Staff should be commended for this.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

April 2026

Inquest

The inquest hearing was held on 26 February 2026. The Coroner concluded that Mr Saville died of natural causes.

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

Email: mail@ppo.gov.uk
Web: www.ppo.gov.uk

T | 020 7633 4100