

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Derek Beardsley, a prisoner at HMP/YOI Doncaster, on 3 August 2025

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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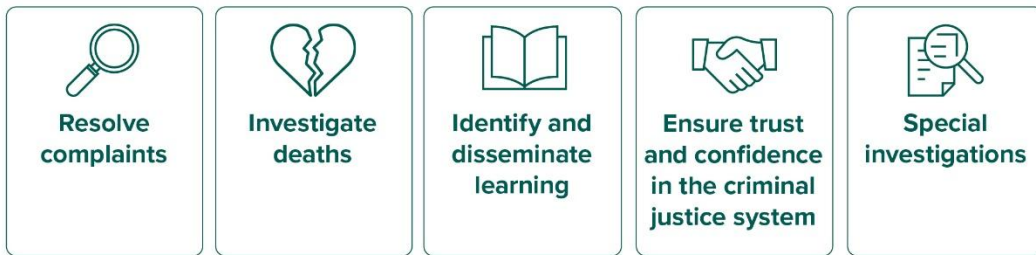
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OUR VISION

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 January 2019, Mr Derek Beardsley was sentenced to nine years in prison for sexual assault of a child. He died in hospital of severe right pneumonia on 3 August 2025, while a prisoner at HMP/YOI Doncaster. He was 88 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Beardsley's family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Beardsley's clinical care at HMP/YOI Doncaster. The clinical reviewer's report is attached as Annex 1.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Beardsley received at Doncaster was of a good standard and equivalent to what he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Beardsley had appropriate care plans in place, long term condition reviews and the prison healthcare team responded proactively to his health needs. The clinical reviewer made no recommendations.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Beardsley'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
Prison and Probation Ombudsman

December 2025

Inquest

At the inquest held on 5 March 2026, the coroner concluded Mr Beardsley died from natural causes.

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