Prisons & Probation Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Kenneth Wood, a prisoner at HMP Oakwood, on 25 August 2025

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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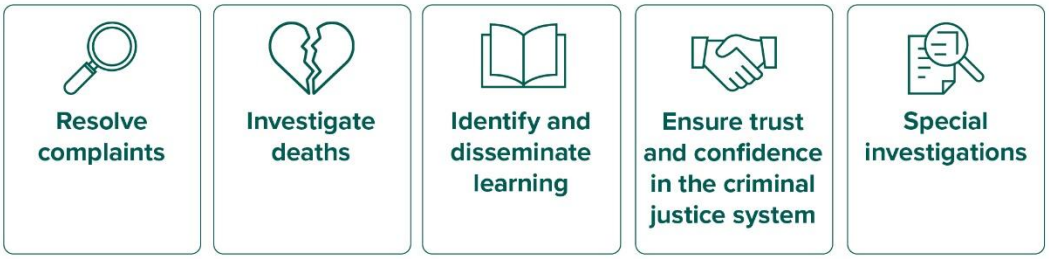
OUR VISION

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

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 2025, Mr Wood was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for sexual offences. On 19 August, he had a heart attack in his cell at HMP Oakwood. He was taken to hospital but died six days later. He was 73 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Wood's family and friends.

4. The Ombudsman's office wrote to Mr Wood's next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. They did not respond.

5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Wood's clinical care at HMP Oakwood.

6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Wood received at Oakwood was of a good standard and was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. The clinical reviewer made two recommendations not related to Mr Wood's death that the Head of Healthcare will wish to address.

7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Wood'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 Services (HMPPS) and Practice Plus Group, the healthcare provider. They did not find any factual inaccuracies.

Adrian Usher **January 2026**
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Inquest

At the inquest, held on 9 April 2026, the Coroner concluded that Mr Wood died from natural causes.

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