

**Prisons &  
Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

# **Independent investigation into the death of Mr Patrick McCann, a prisoner at HMP Forest Bank, on 17 September 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



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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 2021, Mr Patrick McCann was sentenced to 150 months in prison for sexual offences. He died in hospital of a lower respiratory tract infection and cellulitis (a skin infection) on 17 September 2025, while a prisoner at HMP Forest Bank. He was 78 years old. We offer our condolences to those who knew him.
4. Mr McCann had no nominated next of kin and the prison was unable to trace any family. The Ombudsman's office was therefore unable to write to a next of kin about the investigation into Mr McCann's death.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr McCann's clinical care at Forest Bank.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr McCann received at Forest Bank was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made four recommendations not related to Mr McCann's death which the Head of Healthcare will wish to address.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr McCann's care.
8. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
9. We shared our initial report with HMPPS and the prison's healthcare provider, Spectrum Community Health CIC. They found no factual inaccuracies.
10. At the inquest, held on 17 March 2026, the Coroner concluded that Mr McCann died from natural causes.

**Adrian Usher**  
**Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

**March 2026**

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