

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Arthur Hodgson, a prisoner at HMP Northumberland, on 26 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 March 2022, Mr Arthur Hodgson was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for sexual offences. He died in hospital of metastatic oesophageal carcinoma on 26 September 2025, while a prisoner at HMP Northumberland. He was 73 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Hodgson's family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Hodgson's clinical care at HMP Northumberland. The clinical reviewer's report is attached as Annex 1.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Hodgson received at Northumberland was of a good standard and equivalent to what he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that nursing staff completed appropriate care planning, they saw Mr Hodgson weekly and amended his pain relief to meet his needs. He was placed on the complex care register and was discussed regularly at the multi-disciplinary team meetings. The healthcare team appropriately transferred Mr Hodgson to hospital when his health deteriorated, and they continued to contact hospital staff for updates daily. The clinical reviewer made no recommendations.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Hodgson's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.
7. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS and Healthcare (Spectrum, Community Health CIC) pointed out some factual inaccuracies, and this report has been amended accordingly.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

February 2026

Inquest

At the inquest held on 9 March 2026, the coroner concluded that Mr Hodgson died of natural causes.

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