

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Michael Considine, a prisoner at HMP Littlehey, on 23 November 2024

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 2022, Mr Michael Considine was sentenced to 18 years in prison for sex offences. He died in a hospice of metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue (tongue cancer) on 23 November 2024, while a prisoner at HMP Littlehey. He was 64 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Considine's family and friends.
4. The Ombudsman's office wrote to Mr Considine'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 Considine's clinical care at HMP Littlehey.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Considine received at Littlehey was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Considine received appropriate palliative care, including regular weight checks and nutritional supplements. She noted that healthcare staff treated him with compassion, particularly when discussing his wishes, symptom management and treatment options. She also found that there was good continuity of care, with effective communication between healthcare and prison staff.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Considine's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.
8. We make no recommendations.

Good Practice

9. Mr Considine's allocated palliative care nurse specialist regularly met him to offer emotional support. She accompanied him to a hospital appointment where his cancer diagnosis was discussed and later had a compassionate conversation with him about his prognosis. Throughout his care, she demonstrated commendable dedication and consistent efforts in supporting him.
10. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the prison's healthcare provider, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. They pointed out some factual inaccuracies within the clinical review report which has been amended accordingly.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

September 2025

Inquest

11. At the inquest held on 15 July 2025, the Coroner concluded that Mr Considine died from natural causes.



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

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

T | 020 7633 4100