

**Prisons &  
Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

# **Independent investigation into the death of Mr Haifong Bian, a prisoner at HMP Oakwood, on 6 December 2023**

**A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

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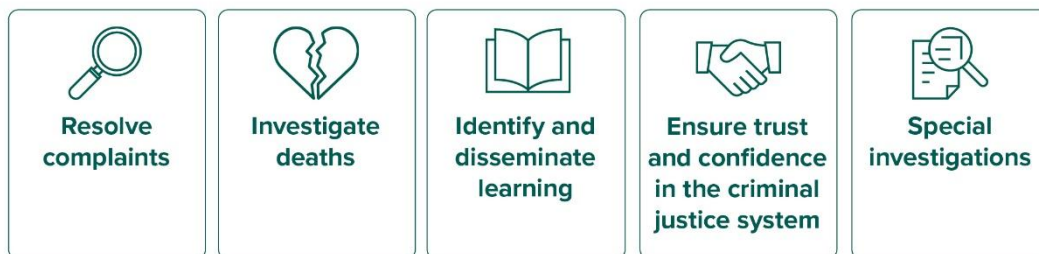
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## **OUR VISION**

**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. On 17 June 2022, Mr Haifong Bian was sentenced to 18 years in prison for sex offences. He died from fulminant myocarditis (a sudden inflammation of the heart tissue) on 6 December 2023, while a prisoner at HMP Oakwood. He was 46 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Bian's family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Bian's clinical care at HMP Oakwood.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Bian received at HMP Oakwood was of a good standard and at least equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. He found that the emergency response was fast and CPR was delivered immediately and appropriately. The clinical reviewer made recommendations not related to Mr Bian's death which the Head of Healthcare will want to address.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Bian's care. As part of our investigation, we interviewed two members of staff and a prisoner. We did not identify any significant non-clinical issues and make no recommendations.
7. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.
8. At an inquest held on 30 July 2024, the Coroner concluded that Mr Bian died of natural causes.

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

**August 2024**



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