

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Joseph Warwick a prisoner at HMP Littlehey on 16 October 2019

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Our Vision

To carry out independent investigations to make custody and community supervision safer and fairer.

Our Values

We are:

Impartial: *we do not take sides*

Respectful: *we are considerate and courteous*

Inclusive: *we value diversity*

Dedicated: *we are determined and focused*

Fair: *we are honest and act with integrity*



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Summary

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. Our office carries out investigations to understand what happened and identify how the organisations whose actions we oversee can improve their work in the future.
3. Mr Joseph Warwick, who was 81 years old, died of secondary bladder cancer on 16 October 2019, while a prisoner at HMP Littlehey. We offer our condolences to Mr Warwick's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care that Mr Warwick received after his cancer diagnosis was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She has made one recommendation about secondary reception screenings. The full details can be found in her clinical review – Annex 1.
5. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.

Recommendation

- The Head of Healthcare at HMP Littlehey should ensure that all patients have a second-stage reception screen, in line with NICE guidelines.

Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Warwick's clinical care at HMP Littlehey. The clinical review is attached to this report at Annex 1.
7. A PPO investigator has investigated the non-clinical issues in Mr Warwick's care, including his location, the security arrangements for his hospital escorts, liaison with his family and whether compassionate release was considered.
8. Our family liaison officer wrote to Mr Warwick's next of kin to explain the investigation. She did not respond.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies and their action plan is annexed to this report.

Previous deaths at Littlehey

10. We have investigated 15 deaths from natural causes and one non-natural death at HMP Littlehey since October 2017. There are no similarities between our findings in the investigation of Mr Warwick's death and our other investigations.

Key Events

11. Mr Joseph Warwick was sentenced to nine years in prison for sexual offences and arrived at HMP Littlehey on 8 April 2016.
12. Mr Warwick was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2013, before he went to prison. He had his urethra, bladder and kidney removed and was fitted with a special bag to pass urine. From 2014 to 2015, Mr Warwick had palliative chemotherapy as the cancer was not curable, and was under the care of the Urology Department at a hospital when he went to prison. His care at hospital continued while he was in prison.
13. On 13 June 2019, Mr Warwick was diagnosed with metastatic or secondary cancer (cancer that has spread to other organs within the body).
14. On 25 June, Mr Warwick signed an order to say that he did not want to be resuscitated if his heart stopped beating.
15. At an appointment at a hospital on 1 August, Mr Warwick was told that he could not have any further surgery or treatment as the cancer was too widespread. He was told that he had less than three months to live.
16. On 29 August, staff at Littlehey applied for Mr Warwick to be released early on compassionate grounds. On 19 September 2019, Mr Warwick received notification that his release on compassionate grounds had not been approved for public protection reasons.
17. On 9 October, Mr Warwick was transferred to hospital as his health deteriorated. Two days later, he was transferred to a hospice in Moggerhanger.
18. Mr Warwick died on 16 October, at 9.05pm.
19. No post-mortem was conducted, but the coroner accepted Mr Warwick's cause of death as Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma of the Bladder, or secondary bladder cancer.

Karen Johnson
Assistant Ombudsman

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