

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr William Sartain, a prisoner at HMP Wakefield, on 1 February 2020

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. We carry out investigations to understand what happened and identify how the organisations whose actions we oversee can improve their work in the future.
3. Mr William Sartain died on 1 February 2020 of Prostate Cancer at HMP Wakefield. Mr Sartain was 83 years old. I offer my condolences to Mr Sartain's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded in her draft report that the clinical care Mr Sartain received at Wakefield was equivalent to that he could have expected to receive in the community. She made four recommendations, two of which we repeat below.
5. We found no non-clinical issues of concern.

Recommendations

- The Head of Healthcare should ensure that clinical risk assessments and nursing care plans are updated when there are any changes in a patient's condition.
- The Head of Healthcare should ensure that that patients with palliative care needs are invited to multidisciplinary team meetings about their care.

The Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Sartain's clinical care at Wakefield. The clinical reviewer's final report is attached as Annex 1.
7. The PPO investigator has investigated non-clinical issues, including Ms Sartain's location, the security arrangements for his hospital escorts, liaison with his family and whether compassionate release was considered.
8. The PPO family liaison officer, wrote to Mr Sartain's next of kin, his son, to explain the investigation. He did not respond to her letter.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies. Care UK pointed out some factual inaccuracies in the clinical review, and the review has been amended accordingly. Care UK rejected one of the clinical reviewer's recommendations and the action plan has been annexed to this report. We have considered the comments and have not withdrawn our recommendation.

Previous deaths at HMP Wakefield

10. Mr Sartain was the 21st prisoner to die at Wakefield since February 2018. Of these deaths, nineteen were from natural causes and two were self-inflicted.

Key Events

11. On 9 May 2014, Mr William Sartain was sentenced to 14 years in prison for sexual offences. He was moved to HMP Wakefield on 20 June 2016.
12. Mr Sartain was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999 and treated with radiotherapy and hormone injections. He had also had four heart attacks.
13. On 1 May 2019, a Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) order was discussed with Mr Sartain, who agreed that if he stopped breathing he did not want to be resuscitated.
14. On 8 July, Mr Sartain was urgently referred to a cancer specialist following a significant increase Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) levels, a possible indication of prostate cancer.
15. From August, the prison did not use any restraints when escorting Mr Sartain to hospital. They judged that his risk had reduced due to his severe mobility issues and his serious underlying medical condition.
16. On 22 August, Mr Sartain had a Computerised Tomography (CT) scan. His PSA level had risen again and, on 29 August, he was admitted to hospital. Further tests identified a tumour on his spinal cord.

17. On 22 October, the prison began an application for Mr Sartain's early release on compassionate grounds. The application was eventually refused on the grounds that his current treatment was not incompatible with imprisonment, the Governor did not support early release and he continued to pose a high risk of harm to children.
18. On 31 October, Mr Sartain's oncologist told him that his life expectancy was likely to be less than six months.
19. Despite his deteriorating health, Mr Sartain had insisted that he wanted to remain on a standard prison wing. However, on 31 January 2020, he agreed to move to the prison's inpatient unit, where he died the next day, on 1 February.
20. A post-mortem examination concluded that Mr Sartain died of prostate cancer with bony metastasis.

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December 2020

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