

**Prisons &  
Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

# Independent investigation into the death of Mr Hunar Mohammed, a prisoner at HMP Nottingham, on 7 April 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 Hunar Mohammed, who was 28 years old, died of T-cell lymphoma (a rare type of cancer that is found in the white blood cells that form part of the body's immune system) on 7 April 2020, at Haywood House Hospice. We offer our condolences to Mr Mohammed's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the care Mr Mohammed received at HMP Nottingham was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made one recommendation in respect of liaison and communication with secondary care providers that the Head of Healthcare will wish to address.
5. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.

## Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Mohammed's clinical care at HMP Nottingham.
7. The PPO investigator has investigated non-clinical issues, including Mr Mohammed'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 Mohammed's next of kin, his cousin, to explain the investigation. He did not respond to our letter.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.

## Previous deaths at Nottingham

10. Mr Mohammed was the fourth prisoner to die from natural causes at Nottingham in the last two years.
11. There are no similarities between our findings in the investigation of Mr Mohammed's death and the other deaths.

## Key Events

12. On 25 April 2019, Mr Hunar Mohammed, an Iraqi national, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment charged with criminal damage. He was released from HMP Elmley in 5 November 2018 but was recalled to HMP Nottingham on 5 January 2019.
13. On 14 June 2019, Mr Mohammed was diagnosed with angioimmunoblastic lymphoma (T-cell lymphoma). He was given leave to remain in the UK for six months to allow him to complete treatment. He received chemotherapy but his lymphoma returned in August 2019. He was told that his cancer was terminal and the only treatment option was palliative chemotherapy.
14. Mr Mohammed completed palliative chemotherapy treatment on 17 September. He said he wanted to return to Iraq but would not be able to pay for treatment there. Mr Mohammed was released on licence to an Approved Premises on 4 October. Contact was made with Haywood House Hospice in preparation for when he would require end of life care.
15. On 9 October, Mr Mohammed returned to HMP Nottingham after breaching the terms of his licence. He received further palliative chemotherapy in hospital. He said he did not want anyone to resuscitate him if his heart or breathing stopped and signed an order to that effect.
16. On 1 November, he was released from hospital to another Approved Premises. This placement broke down and he returned to Nottingham on 27 November.
17. On 13 March, Mr Mohammed transferred to Heathrow Immigration Centre to await repatriation to Iraq. However, his flight was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and he was returned to Nottingham on 16 March.
18. Following his return to Nottingham, Mr Mohammed's condition continued to deteriorate and on 2 April he was released to Haywood House Hospice, Nottingham, to receive end of life care. He died on 7 April.

### Post-mortem report

19. The coroner accepted the cause of death given by hospice staff as T-cell lymphoma.

**Lisa Burrell**  
**Assistant Ombudsman**

**December 2020**

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