

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Nathaniel Julien, a prisoner at HMP Leeds, on 21 March 2021

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 Nathaniel Julien died on 21 March 2021 of gastric cancer while a prisoner at HMP Leeds. Mr Julien was 91 years old. I offer my condolences to Mr Julien's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Julien received at HMP Leeds was good and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made no recommendations.
5. We found no non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.

The Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Julien's clinical care at HMP Leeds. The clinical reviewer's report is attached as Annex 1.
7. The PPO investigator has investigated non-clinical issues, including Mr Julien's location, the security arrangements for his hospital escorts, and whether compassionate release was considered.
8. Mr Julien had no known next of kin.

Previous deaths at HMP Leeds

9. Mr Julien was the 25th prisoner to die at HMP since Leeds March 2019. Of these deaths, 13 were from natural causes, nine were self-inflicted, one was drug related and one cause of death has yet to be established.

Key Events

10. On 3 June 2017, Mr Nathaniel Julien was remanded into prison custody for sexual offences. He was later sentenced to 16 years in prison. He was sent to HMP Leeds and later transferred to HMP Moorland.
11. Mr Julien was previously diagnosed with coronary heart disease and high blood pressure. On 6 July 2020, he was diagnosed with stomach cancer which had spread to other parts of his body. Due to Mr Julien's age and his other health conditions, his cancer care was palliative only.
12. On the 1 March 2021, Mr Julien was experiencing increased pain, poor appetite and was becoming incontinent of urine. He was also struggling to care for himself. Staff at Moorland considered that they could not continue to meet his care needs as they did not provide 24 hour healthcare, so they arranged for him to move to a prison that could provide the appropriate care.
13. On 9 March, Mr Julien transferred to HMP Leeds.
14. Mr Julien was placed in the prison's complex care medical unit at Leeds where a full assessment of his needs was completed. A Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) order was already in place for Mr Julien when he transferred to Leeds, which meant that in the event his heart or breathing stopped, he would not be resuscitated.
15. Mr Julien had expressed his wish to remain at Leeds for end of life care. However, on the 17 March, healthcare staff decided that he should be transferred to a hospice as his needs were such that they could no longer be accommodated by the prison.
16. On 18 March, Mr Julien was transferred to Wheatfield's hospice for end of life care.
17. On 19 March, an application for Mr Julien's early release on compassionate grounds was submitted to the Public Protection Casework Section (PPCS) of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). Mr Julien died before a decision could be made.
18. On 21 March, it was confirmed that Mr Julien had died at Wheatfield's hospice

Post-mortem report

19. The Coroner accepted the cause of death provided by a hospice doctor and no post-mortem examination was carried out. The doctor gave Mr Julien's cause of death as gastric cancer with liver metastasis.

Lisa Burrell

October 2021

Assistant Ombudsman

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