

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Ian Southwood, a prisoner at HMP Whatton, on 12 November 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 Ian Southwood died of brain cancer on 12 November 2021 at HMP Whatton. He was 62 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Southwood's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Southwood received at Whatton was equivalent to that he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Southwood received compassionate care from competent staff. She made one recommendation as Mr Southwood's agency social carer was unaware that he had a Do Not Attempt CPR (DNACPR) order in place.
5. We found no non-clinical issues of concern.

Recommendation

- The Head of Healthcare should ensure that all agency healthcare/social care staff are aware of those prisoners who have a DNACPR instruction in place.

The Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Southwood's clinical care at Whatton.
7. The PPO investigator has investigated the non-clinical issues, including Mr Southwood'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 Southwood's nominated next of kin, his friend, to explain the investigation. She 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 and their action plan is annexed to this report.

Previous deaths at HMP Whatton

10. Mr Southwood was the 16th prisoner to die at Whatton since November 2019. Of the previous deaths, 14 were from natural causes and one was self-inflicted. There are no similarities between our findings in the investigation into Mr Southwood's death and our investigation findings for the previous deaths.

Key Events

11. In October 2018, Mr Ian Southwood was sentenced to nine years imprisonment for sexual offences. In December, he was moved to HMP Whatton.
12. Mr Southwood had several long-term health conditions including high blood pressure, type 1 diabetes and high cholesterol.
13. On 17 September 2020, prison staff asked healthcare staff to visit Mr Southwood as he was slurring his words. Healthcare staff checked his observations and all were within normal range. However, as he appeared confused, healthcare staff arranged for him to go to the Emergency Department at the Queens Medical Centre. Hospital staff diagnosed a brain tumour.
14. On 8 October, Mr Southwood had neurosurgery to reduce the size of the tumour and the hospital arranged for a Computerised Tomography (CT) scan (uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body). Results showed he had an aggressive and incurable form of cancer.
15. On 13 October, the prison appointed a family liaison officer (FLO). The FLO contacted Mr Southwood's preferred contact (who was a friend) and told her about Mr Southwood's diagnosis. With Mr Southwood's permission, the FLO provided his friend with updates about his condition.
16. On 16 October during a telephone consultation, the consultant oncologist told Mr Southwood he had a terminal grade 4 brain tumour. Specialists arranged a course of radiotherapy and chemotherapy.
17. After his terminal diagnosis, prison healthcare staff supported Mr Southwood. Mr Southwood said his preferred place for his care was on his wing. As a result of his aggressive brain tumour, Mr Southwood was deemed to lack capacity to discuss more detailed advance care planning. Healthcare staff created a palliative care plan and he was added to the complex care register to ensure he was as comfortable as possible.

2021

18. After discussions between a prison GP and Mr Southwood's next of kin, on 2 February 2021, healthcare staff completed a Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) order which noted that if Mr Southwood stopped breathing, he would not be resuscitated. Entries in his medical record confirm that as his health deteriorated this was reviewed and prison staff were updated.
19. The prison applied for Mr Southwood's early release on compassionate grounds. However, the application was refused as there were no arrangements for his accommodation, care and treatment outside prison.
20. Social care support workers were provided (via an agency) at the beginning of November 2021 in order to provide overnight care and support to Mr Southwood as he was nearing the end of his life.

21. On 12 November, at approximately 10.05pm one of the two support workers asked the operational support grade (OSG) to unlock the cell door as Mr Southwood did not appear to be breathing. The OSG immediately unlocked the cell door and radioed an emergency code blue. Both support workers entered the cell and checked Mr Southwood's pulse. As they could not find a pulse, one of the social care workers began CPR. The night duty manager attended with the DNACPR form and it was agreed that resuscitation should stop. At 10.40pm, ambulance paramedics confirmed that Mr Southwood had died.

Record of inquest

22. On 21 December 2021, the Coroner concluded that Mr Southwood died from natural causes of malignant grade IV glioblastoma (an aggressive type of cancer that can form in the brain or spinal cord). He noted that Mr Southwood also had diabetes mellitus which did not cause but contributed to his death.

Louise Richards
Assistant Ombudsman

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Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

Email: mail@ppo.gov.uk
Web: www.ppo.gov.uk

T | 020 7633 4100