

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

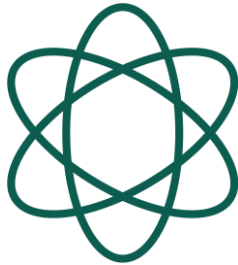
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Shadrack Jackson, a prisoner at HMP Leyhill, on 1 April 2022

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 Shadrack Jackson died from kidney failure on 1 April 2022, at HMP Leyhill. He was 41 years old. We offer our condolences to those who knew him.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Jackson received at Leyhill was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. He commented that in his final weeks at Leyhill, Mr Jackson was treated with great care and compassion.
5. We found no non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.

The Investigation Process

6. NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Jackson's clinical care at Leyhill.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Jackson's care, including his location, the security arrangements for his hospital escorts, and whether compassionate release was considered.
8. Mr Jackson had been estranged from his family for many years and was thought to have no next of kin. However, after the initial report was issued, Leyhill informed the PPO that they had managed to establish contact with Mr Jackson's mother. The investigator telephoned her to discuss the initial report and to offer a copy of the final report. However, she said she had received a copy of the PPO's initial report from the Coroner, and as there were no changes following the consultation phase and she had no issues, she did not feel it necessary to receive a further report from the PPO.
9. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS found no factual inaccuracies.

Previous deaths at HMP Leyhill

10. Mr Jackson was the sixth prisoner to die at Leyhill since April 2020. All the previous deaths were from natural causes.

Key Events

11. On 5 November 2008, Mr Shadrack Jackson was given an imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentence, with a minimum term to serve of five years, for serious sexual assault and rape. On 27 November 2019, Mr Jackson was sent to HMP Leyhill.
12. Mr Jackson already had some serious long-term health conditions when he arrived at Leyhill, including severe arthropathy (a collective name for diseases of the joints) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE - a disease in which the immune system attacks the body's own tissues). He also had a long-term problem with being underweight. He had a history of not complying with attempts to provide him with suitable health care, including refusing treatments, medications and appointments.
13. In September 2021, following concerns over Mr Jackson's self-neglect, his low body weight and depression, he was assessed by mental health services (MHS) at Leyhill, and an adult safeguarding referral was raised by social services.
14. In October, although Mr Jackson did accept the nutritional drinks prescribed to him and made some weight gain, he continued to reject any help from MHS or to accept antidepressant medications. He also refused social care help with his daily activities.
15. In November, Mr Jackson refused a physical examination by a prison GP. The GP, concerned by Mr Jackson's presentation, consulted with a hospital rheumatologist. The consultant suggested blood tests. Mr Jackson agreed to have these but asked for them to be delayed. In December, he reluctantly agreed to a hospital appointment to assess his kidneys.
16. Mr Jackson soon stopped taking the medication prescribed by the hospital and refused to attend a follow up appointment with the hospital for a renal biopsy (a minor operation to obtain a small amount of kidney tissue for testing). A prison GP spoke to him about the importance of his biopsy in January 2022, but Mr Jackson said he did not want any more hospital appointments. Mr Jackson continued to refuse most other attempts of help as well.
17. Mr Jackson was consistently assessed as having the capacity to make his decisions, and a formal capacity test in February confirmed that this was the case. Although healthcare staff attended an appointment with a renal consultant in February, when Mr Jackson refused to do so himself, the consultant said that it was difficult to propose a course of treatment without Mr Jackson's cooperation. They said that death was likely without treatment.
18. A prison GP explained the seriousness of his situation to Mr Jackson, but he did not change his mind about participating in treatment. His health continued to deteriorate, and he refused hospital admission on 15 March. On 23 March, he told healthcare staff that he just wanted to die. Blood tests the following day showed that his kidneys were damaged beyond any chance of recovery, and that without any treatment, he would die soon.
19. Following his refusal to go to hospital on 15 March, Leyhill were able to comply with Mr Jackson's wish to stay in the prison and he was transferred to the palliative care

suite at Leyhill on the same day. Leyhill liaised with the local hospice and provided Mr Jackson with substantial input and care. He died on 1 April.

Cause of death

20. The Coroner accepted the cause of death provided by a prison doctor and no post-mortem examination was carried out. The doctor gave Mr Jackson's cause of death as renal failure (when the kidneys stop working) caused by lupus nephritis (an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own kidneys).

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July 2022

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