

**Prisons &  
Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

# **Independent investigation into the death of Mr Lorne De Angelista, a prisoner at HMP Norwich, on 15 February 2022**

**A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman**

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## 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 Lorne De Angelista, who was 54 years old, died of lung cancer on 15 February 2022 at HMP Norwich. We offer our condolences to Mr De Angelista's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr De Angelista received at Norwich was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made two recommendations.
5. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern.

## Recommendations

- The Head of Healthcare should ensure that staff use a nutritional screening tool for prisoners who are at risk of malnutrition.
- The Head of Healthcare should ensure that prison healthcare staff verify death where appropriate to minimise the use of emergency services.

## The Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr De Angelista's clinical care at HMP Norwich.
7. The PPO investigator has investigated the non-clinical issues in Mr De-Angelista's care, including his location, the security arrangements for his hospital escorts, liaison with his family and whether compassionate release was considered.
8. We informed HM Coroner for Norfolk of the investigation. We have sent the Coroner a copy of this report.
9. The Ombudsman's family liaison officer wrote to Mr De Angelista's next of kin, a friend, to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted the investigation to consider. She asked for a copy of our report but raised no issues for investigation.
10. We shared our initial report with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). They found no factual inaccuracies.
11. We sent a copy of our initial report to Mr De Angelista's next of kin. They did not notify us of any factual inaccuracies.

## Previous deaths at HMP Norwich

12. Mr De Angelista was the tenth prisoner to die at Norwich since February 2020. Of the previous deaths, six were from natural causes and three were self-inflicted. There are no similarities between our findings in this investigation and our findings from our investigations into the previous deaths.

## Key Events

13. On 11 August 2021, Mr Lorne De Angelista was recalled to prison for breaching his licence conditions. On 1 September, he was moved to HMP Bure.
14. Mr De Angelista was diagnosed with lung cancer on 10 November. He said that he did not want any treatment to prolong his life, and he signed a Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) order, which said that he did not want to be resuscitated if his heart or breathing stopped.
15. On 23 November, the prison applied for Mr De Angelista's early release on compassionate grounds. On 15 December, the Public Protection Casework Section (within HM Prison and Probation Service) refused the application because they considered that Mr De Angelista's case did not meet all the criteria, namely he did not have a prognosis of less than three months to live. Mr De Angelista said he wanted to die in prison and did not want the prison to apply for compassionate release again.
16. On 26 November, Mr De Angelista was taken to hospital. He was given medication to help him sleep and to control his sickness. Mr De Angelista was discharged from hospital on 4 December once his symptoms were better controlled. He was not able to return to Bure because they did not have 24-hour health care, so he was taken to HMP Norwich and located in the inpatient healthcare unit.
17. Healthcare staff started a palliative care plan on 18 January 2022 when Mr De Angelista's health started to deteriorate. On 11 February, Mr De Angelista's health deteriorated further, and he was moved to the end of life unit and cared for on an end of life pathway.
18. On the evening of 14 February, a nurse noticed that Mr De Angelista's blood oxygen level had decreased. She gave him oxygen and stayed with him. Mr De Angelista died at 12.15am on 15 February.

## Cause of death

19. The Coroner accepted the cause of death provided by the prison GP and no post-mortem examination was carried out. The GP gave Mr De Angelista's cause of death as superior vena cava obstruction (blockage of the second largest vein in the body) caused by advanced lung tumour.

**Louise Richards**  
**Assistant Ombudsman**

**July 2022**

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