

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

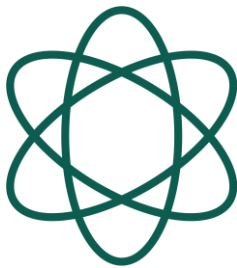
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Terence Lockhart, a prisoner at HMP Holme House, on 14 July 2022

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 Terence Lockhart died of liver cancer on 14 July 2022 at HMP Holme House. He was 58 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Lockhart's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Lockhart received at Holme House was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. The clinical reviewer 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 Lockhart's clinical care at Holme House.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Lockhart's care, including his 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 Lockhart's next of kin, his brother, to explain the investigation and to ask if he had any matters he wanted us to consider. He did not have any questions but asked for a copy of our report.
9. We shared our initial report with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). They found no factual inaccuracies.
10. We sent a copy of our initial report to Mr Lockhart's brother. He identified two factual inaccuracies which have been amended in this report.

Previous deaths at HMP Holme House

11. Mr Lockhart was the eleventh prisoner to die at Holme House since July 2020. Of the previous deaths, seven were from natural causes and three were self-inflicted.

Key Events

12. On 13 June 1988, Mr Terence Lockhart was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was moved to HMP Holme House on 1 December 2021.
13. On 23 December, a prison GP saw Mr Lockhart after he reported abdominal pain, vomiting and loss of appetite. The GP arranged blood tests. When the results came back as abnormal, the GP arranged repeat blood tests the following week. These showed an improvement and the GP recorded that no further action was needed.
14. On 31 December, a prison GP saw Mr Lockhart. He said he felt slightly better but could feel a lump in his abdomen. The GP arranged for Mr Lockhart to have a CT scan, which was completed on 8 February 2022.
15. On 23 February, Mr Lockhart was told there were some masses on his liver and that further investigations were needed to provide a diagnosis.
16. On 14 April, a prison GP told Mr Lockhart that the hospital had confirmed he had liver cancer and that investigations were still ongoing to establish whether it was curable.
17. On 6 May, a prison GP told Mr Lockhart that hospital staff had confirmed his cancer was terminal.
18. On 26 May, a hospital doctor assessed that Mr Lockhart had three months or less to live.
19. On 10 June, the prison submitted an application for Mr Lockhart's early release on compassionate grounds to the Public Protection Casework Section (PPCS) of HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).
20. Prison and healthcare staff encouraged Mr Lockhart to consider moving to a hospice. He declined this as his preference was to be released to his brother's address on compassionate grounds. On 13 July, he agreed to move to a hospice, but by the time the prison had authorised this later that day, he was too weak to be moved.
21. Mr Lockhart's application for early release on compassionate grounds was refused on 13 July. He was notified of the decision on 14 July, the day of his death.
22. Mr Lockhart died in the palliative care suite at Holme House on 14 July at 10.38pm.

Cause of death

23. There was no post-mortem examination. A prison GP gave the cause of death as metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer).
24. The inquest into Mr Lockhart's death concluded that Mr Lockhart died from natural causes.

Louise Richards
Assistant Ombudsman

February 2023

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