

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

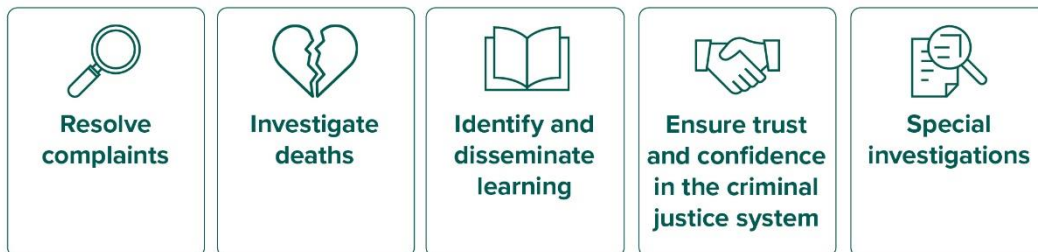
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Mohammed Nadeem, a prisoner at HMP Forest Bank, on 20 December 2022

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

OUR VISION

To deliver high quality and timely independent investigations and work closely with partners to achieve tangible benefits for the safety and confidence of those in custody and under community supervision.

WHAT WE DO



WHAT WE VALUE



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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. If my office is to best assist HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in ensuring the standard of care received by those within service remit is appropriate, our recommendations should be focused, evidenced and viable. This is especially the case if there is evidence of systemic failure.
3. Mr Mohammed Nadeem died in hospital from end stage heart failure and ischaemic heart disease on 20 December 2022 while a prisoner of HMP Forest Bank. He also had hypertension (high blood pressure) which did not cause but contributed to his death. He was 55 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Nadeem's family and friends.
4. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Nadeem received at Forest Bank was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. The clinical reviewer made three recommendations which were not related to Mr Nadeem's death but which the Head of Healthcare will need to address. She found that there was good practice in the sharing of information between the prison's healthcare team and the hospital and in the healthcare team's daily contact with Mr Nadeem to respond to his care needs.
5. We found no non-clinical issues of concern.

The Investigation Process

6. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer, to review Mr Nadeem's clinical care at Forest Bank. The clinical reviewer's report is annexed.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Nadeem's care.
8. The PPO family liaison officer wrote to Mr Nadeem's next of kin, his wife, to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. 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.

Previous deaths at HMP Forest Bank

10. Mr Nadeem was the twelfth prisoner to die at Forest Bank since 20 December 2019. Of the previous deaths, six were from natural causes, two were self-inflicted and three were drug-related. There are no similarities between our findings in the investigation into Mr Nadeem's death and our investigation findings for the previous deaths.

Key Events

11. Mr Mohammed Nadeem was remanded in custody, for sexual offences, on 6 November 2020 and was sent to HMP Forest Bank. He was later convicted of these offences on 7 April 2022.
12. Mr Nadeem had a number of medical conditions, including chronic kidney disease, heart failure and acute coronary syndrome (resulting from a reduction of blood flow to the heart).
13. On 3 September 2022, Mr Nadeem was admitted to hospital due to abnormal kidney function tests. While there, the medical team looking after him decided that if his health deteriorated, he would not receive intensive therapy and an order not to resuscitate him was put in place on 7 September.
14. Mr Nadeem returned to the healthcare centre at Forest Bank on 15 September.
15. On 5 December, a GP operating at Forest Bank, reviewed Mr Nadeem because he had pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs, usually caused by an infection). Mr Nadeem was admitted to hospital for treatment.
16. On 11 December, the hospital updated the prison about Mr Nadeem's condition. They advised that his heart was only working at 30% capacity and as a result, they had referred him to the hospital's palliative care team as they considered he was approaching the end of his life.
17. That day, the prison appointed a family liaison officer.
18. On 15 and 19 December, the Chaplain at Forest Bank, and the Imam at the prison, visited Mr Nadeem in hospital and offered prayers on his behalf.
19. At approximately 3.55am on 20 December, Mr Nadeem died.

Post-mortem report

20. A post-mortem examination was not conducted. A hospital doctor confirmed that Mr Nadeem died of end stage heart disease and ischaemic heart disease. He also had hypertension which did not cause but contributed to his death.

Inquest

21. The inquest into Mr Nadeem's death was held on 13 October 2023 and a verdict of natural causes was recorded.
22. The coroner concluded that Mr Nadeem's death was due to natural causes, caused by end stage heart failure and ischaemic heart disease. He also had hypertension.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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