

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

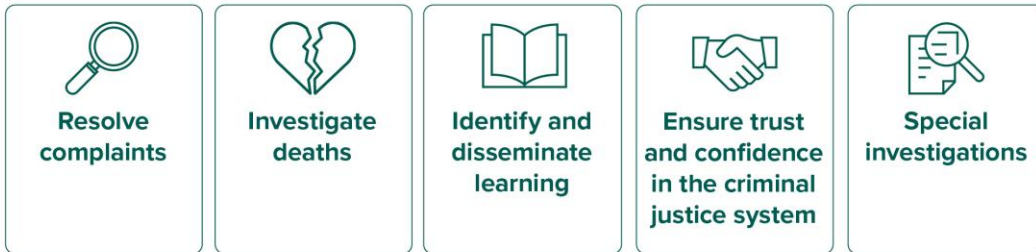
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Andrew Jackson on 13 July 2022, following his release from HMP Lincoln

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. Since 6 September 2021, the PPO has been investigating post-release deaths that occur within 14 days of the person's release from prison.
3. We carry out investigations to understand what happened and identify how the organisations whose actions we oversee can improve their work in the future.
4. Mr Andrew Jackson died after jumping from the roof of a car park on 13 July 2022, on the day of his release from HMP Lincoln. He was 46 years old. I offer my condolences to his family and friends.
5. While in prison, staff supported Mr Jackson using suicide and self-harm prevention procedures on several occasions. We found that information about Mr Jackson's risk of suicide and self-harm was appropriately shared with his community offender manager.
6. The clinical reviewer found that Mr Jackson received good support from the prison's mental health team, however his mental health needs did not meet the threshold for a community mental health referral. The clinical reviewer found that his care was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community.
7. We make no recommendations.

The Investigation Process

8. The PPO investigator obtained copies of relevant extracts from Mr Jackson's prison and probation records.
9. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Jackson's clinical care at the prison. The investigator and clinical reviewer interviewed four members of healthcare staff at Lincoln on 21 and 22 September 2022.
10. The investigator interviewed a staff member of Huddersfield Probation on 27 September. All interviews were completed by video conference.
11. We informed HM Coroner for Lincolnshire of the investigation. They provided the results of the post-mortem examination. We have sent the Coroner a copy of this report.
12. The Ombudsman's family liaison officer contacted Mr Jackson's next of kin, his mother, to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. She told us she had raised concerns about Mr Jackson's welfare while he was in prison, which we have addressed in separate correspondence.
13. We shared our initial report with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). They found no factual inaccuracies.
14. We sent a copy of our initial report to Mr Jackson's mother. We also sent a copy to Mr Jackson's father. Neither notified us of any factual inaccuracies.

Background Information

HMP Lincoln

15. HMP Lincoln is a Category B prison in the East Midlands, run by His Majesty's Prison Service. It holds approximately 600 adult male prisoners who have either been convicted or are on remand. Healthcare services are provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Probation Service

16. The Probation Service work with all individuals subject to custodial and community sentences. During a person's imprisonment, they oversee their sentence plan to assist in rehabilitation, as well as prepare reports to advise the Parole Board and have links with local partnerships to whom, where appropriate, they refer people for resettlement services. Post-release, the Probation Service supervises people throughout their licence period and post-sentence supervision.

Key Events

17. On 21 May 2021, Mr Andrew Jackson was convicted of sexual offences and sentenced to 32 months imprisonment. He was sent to HMP Lincoln.
18. Mr Jackson said he had suffered depression and anxiety in the past although there was no formal diagnosis recorded in his medical record. He said he had previously been prescribed antidepressant medication but had stopped taking it. The prison GP prescribed antidepressant medication.
19. On 26 May, prison staff started suicide and self-harm prevention procedures (known as ACCT) for Mr Jackson after his cellmate found a ligature in their cell. Staff closed the ACCT on 1 July, as they considered that Mr Jackson had made progress and had a good routine within the prison.
20. In June, the mental health team agreed that Mr Jackson needed regular mental health input, which he received throughout his time at Lincoln.
21. On 22 September, prison staff started ACCT procedures for Mr Jackson, after his cellmate found him with a bedsheet wrapped around his neck. During his ACCT reviews, Mr Jackson expressed concerns about family relationships and his future outside prison.
22. On 8 October, prison and healthcare staff agreed to close Mr Jackson's ACCT, as he had not expressed any thoughts of suicide or self-harm and seemed more positive about the future.
23. On 1 November, Huddersfield Probation allocated Mr Jackson a community offender manager (COM).
24. On 5 November, a prison officer found Mr Jackson unresponsive in his cell. Healthcare staff attended and thought that Mr Jackson might have overdosed. Paramedics arrived and took Mr Jackson to hospital. He returned to Lincoln later that day.
25. When Mr Jackson returned from hospital, prison staff started ACCT procedures. During ACCT reviews, Mr Jackson expressed concerns about facing further charges.
26. On 16 November, the COM emailed Mr Jackson to introduce himself. He asked Mr Jackson to update him on his current circumstances to identify what support he required for his upcoming release. The same day, the COM also emailed Mr Jackson's prison offender manager (POM) for further information about Mr Jackson.
27. On 26 November, Mr Jackson replied to the COM's email, saying that he did not expect to be released as he was expecting to be charged with further serious offences.
28. On 30 November, prison and healthcare staff agreed to close Mr Jackson's ACCT. He was engaging with the prison regime, had been taking his medication

regularly and had begun to deal with his financial issues, which he had previously been avoiding.

29. The same day, the POM completed a handover appointment with the COM. He shared concerns about Mr Jackson's risk of suicide, and his general presentation in custody. He also shared that it was his understanding that Mr Jackson owned a property and that it would be available to him on release.
30. On 15 December, the COM arranged a meeting with Mr Jackson and the POM to discuss release plans. Mr Jackson presented as anxious and erratic. He was reluctant to engage in this conversation, as he still thought he would not be released due to being investigated for further charges. The COM asked Mr Jackson for his ex-partner's contact details so he could establish whether his property would be available to him on release.
31. After the meeting, the POM made prison staff aware of Mr Jackson's presentation. A supervising officer (SO) spoke with Mr Jackson following this. She did not consider there were any suicide or self-harm concerns at that time.
32. On 19 December, a mental health worker saw Mr Jackson for a review. Mr Jackson did not express any thoughts of suicide, but the mental health worker was concerned about his presentation. He discussed Mr Jackson with an SO, who agreed that an ACCT should not be opened, but that Mr Jackson would benefit from a support plan. A support plan was opened the following day and required prison staff to have daily meaningful conversations with Mr Jackson.

2022

33. On 17 January 2022, Mr Jackson contacted the COM to say he did not need support with accommodation for his release and would contact him if he did.
34. On 7 April, the COM contacted the POM for an update on Mr Jackson's release plans. The POM explained that Mr Jackson had said his house may be being repossessed.
35. On 8 April, a prison officer completed a support plan review with Mr Jackson. Together, they agreed that the plan could be closed as Mr Jackson was aware who he could speak to for support, if needed. The mental health team continued to have Mr Jackson on their caseload and visit him regularly.
36. On 11 April, the COM made an accommodation referral to the Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS - the probation system used to request support from external partnerships). The CRS team arranged to speak with Mr Jackson on 20 April. At the meeting, he said he did not wish to complete the accommodation assessment. As a result, CRS withdrew the referral.
37. On 27 April, the COM made an approved premises (a probation hostel that provides an enhanced level of supervision in the community following release from prison) referral for Mr Jackson. The approved premises manager declined the referral as she did not consider it was a suitable placement for Mr Jackson.

38. On 1 June, the COM made an accommodation referral using the Duty to Refer (DTR) system (a referral system which makes local councils aware that an individual is homeless).
39. On 21 June, the COM made a CAS3 (Community Accommodation Service Tier 3) referral. CAS3 is temporary accommodation (up to 84 days) funded by the Ministry of Justice, for prisoners who are at risk of facing homelessness at point of release.
40. The same day, the COM contacted Lincoln's mental health team. He was told that they did not consider Mr Jackson to have an acute mental illness, but rather that he was struggling with his current circumstances. As a result, Mr Jackson was not eligible for a community mental health referral and would need to speak to his community GP upon release.
41. On 28 June, the local council told the COM that as Mr Jackson's property had not yet been sold, they did not consider him to be homeless and therefore he was not eligible for their services.
42. On 1 July, a mental health nurse saw Mr Jackson for a routine review. Mr Jackson said that he regretted not engaging more in release planning meetings and was concerned about release accommodation. The nurse agreed to share Mr Jackson's concerns with the POM.
43. On 8 July, the POM met with Mr Jackson on the wing. He told Mr Jackson that the police had dropped all further charges against him. He assured Mr Jackson that the COM was doing his best to secure accommodation for his release. He provided Mr Jackson with reporting instructions for his day of release.
44. The COM continued to work with the CAS3 team to secure Mr Jackson accommodation, but no suitable properties were identified by the time of his release.
45. On 13 July, Mr Jackson was released from Lincoln. Later that day, he jumped from the roof of a car park in Lincoln. He was taken to hospital but was pronounced dead.
46. The police visited Mr Jackson's next of kin, his mother, to inform her of her son's death. The police also informed the Probation Service.

Post-mortem report

47. The post-mortem report concluded that Mr Jackson died of haemorrhage and fat emboli (blockage in a blood vessel caused by particles of fat) arising from skeletal injuries, caused by a fall from a height.

Support for staff

48. Following Mr Jackson's death, both the POM and the COM spoke with their line managers, who offered support and made them aware of external support available.

Findings

Sharing of risk information

49. We found that information about Mr Jackson's risk of suicide and self-harm was appropriately shared with probation staff before his release from prison.

Clinical care

50. The clinical reviewer found that Mr Jackson received good support from the prison's mental health team. He did not have a formal diagnosis of mental illness and so did not meet the threshold for a community mental health referral. The clinical reviewer considered that the care Mr Jackson received was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community.

Accommodation

51. Homelessness on release from prison is a significant and complex challenge. We note that the COM tried to secure CAS3 accommodation for Mr Jackson before he was released, but no suitable properties were identified, and Mr Jackson was released homeless.
52. The provision of suitable accommodation for people leaving prison is an issue that extends beyond the remit of HMP Lincoln or local probation services, and the local authority may want to be aware of the issues raised in this case.

Kimberley Bingham
Acting Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

March 2023

Inquest

The inquest, held from 10 to 12 January 2024, concluded that Mr Jackson died by suicide.

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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