

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Richard Winfield, a prisoner at HMP Elmley, on 6 April 2023

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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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 then our recommendations should be focused, evidenced and viable. This is especially the case if there is evidence of systemic failure.
3. Mr Richard Winfield died of respiratory failure caused by bronchopneumonia (a lung infection), small pulmonary thromboembolus (a sudden blockage in the pulmonary arteries) and lung cancer at HMP Elmley. He also had prostate cancer, Type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, frailty and old age which contributed to but did not cause his death. He was 90 years old. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Winfield's clinical care at HMP Elmley.
5. The PPO family liaison officer wrote to Mr Winfield's daughter to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. Mr Winfield's daughter was concerned that when Mr Winfield arrived at Elmley his healthcare was inconsistent, and his symptoms were not being controlled. Mr Winfield's daughter's concerns are addressed in the clinical review.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Winfield received at Elmley was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Winfield's medical records contained evidence of compassionate care, that care plans were discussed with him, and his individual needs were considered. She made no recommendations.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Winfield's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

January 2024

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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