

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Paul Lyons, a prisoner at HMP Wakefield, on 25 October 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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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 His Majesty's 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 Lyons died in hospital of metastatic lung cancer on 25 October 2022, while a prisoner at HMP Wakefield. He was 53 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Lyons' family and friends.
4. The PPO family liaison officer wrote to Mr Lyons' daughter to explain the investigation and to ask if she had any matters she wanted us to consider. She did not respond.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Lyons' clinical care at HMP Wakefield. She concluded that the clinical care Mr Lyons received at Wakefield was partially equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made several recommendations not connected to Mr Lyons' death which the Head of Healthcare will wish to address.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Lyons' care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
7. We shared our initial report with HMPPS. They found no factual inaccuracies.
8. The inquest, held on 2 November 2022, concluded that Mr Lyons died from natural causes.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

February 2024

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