

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

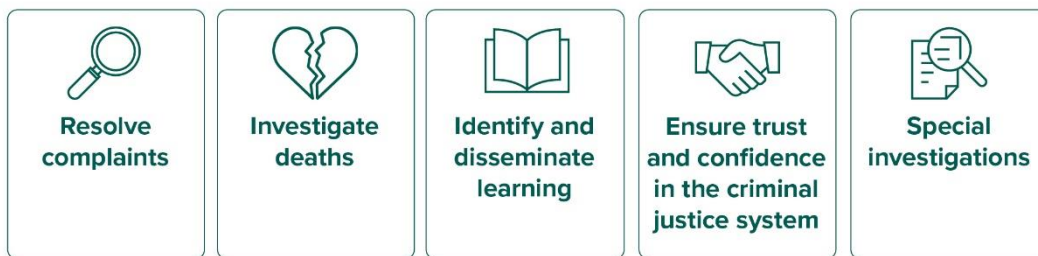
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Zamad Uddin on 5 April 2023, following his release from HMP Parc

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. Since 6 September 2021, the PPO investigates post-release deaths that occur within 14 days of the prisoner's release.
4. Mr Zamad Uddin died of heroin and cocaine intake on 5 April 2023, following his release from HMP Parc on 4 April 2023. He was 27 years old. I offer my condolences to his family and friends.
5. The prison's substance misuse service did everything they could to ensure that Mr Uddin understood the risks associated with substance misuse, he was trained to use naloxone in the event of an overdose and was released with nyxoid (both of which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose). Mr Uddin's Community Offender Manager gave Mr Uddin licence conditions to address his substance misuse and arranged for him to attend an appointment with the community drug and alcohol services on release.
6. We did not find any issues of concern relating to Mr Uddin's death.

The Investigation Process

7. On 5 April 2023, HMPPS notified us of Mr Uddin's death. The PPO investigator obtained copies of relevant extracts from Mr Uddin's prison and probation records.
8. We informed HM Coroner for Gwent of the investigation. He gave us the results of the post-mortem examination. We have sent the Coroner a copy of this report.
9. The Ombudsman's family liaison officer wrote to Mr Uddin's brother to explain the investigation and to ask if he had any matters he wanted us to consider. He did not respond.
10. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS pointed out some factual inaccuracies and this report has been amended accordingly.

Background Information

HMP Parc

11. HMP Parc is a category B prison in South Wales which holds about 1,650 male remand and sentenced prisoners. It is a private prison managed by G4S. G4S Healthcare provided medical services at HMP Parc until December 2022 when all healthcare services transferred to the local health board and are managed under the NHS.
12. 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

13. On 20 October 2022, Mr Zamad Uddin was sentenced to six weeks in prison for theft and was sent to HMP Cardiff.
14. Mr Uddin had a history of drug misuse. He used cannabis, crack cocaine and heroin regularly, which led to a chaotic lifestyle and repeat offending.
15. On 16 November, Mr Uddin was released from Cardiff with a 50ml methadone prescription. He collected his methadone on the day of his release but did not collect it for the next two days and he fell out of his treatment plan. Three weeks later, Mr Uddin was recalled to prison for breaching his licence conditions and was held in police custody before being sent to HMP Parc. While in police custody, Mr Uddin said that he was injecting heroin daily.
16. On the 28 December, Mr Uddin was convicted of a sex offence and sentenced to 28 weeks in prison.
17. On 30 December, Mr Uddin was allocated a Dyfodol caseworker. Dyfodol is the local drug and alcohol service at Cardiff. That day, a GP at the prison prescribed Mr Uddin metoclopramide, mebeverine and loperamide (used for opiate withdrawal).
18. A mental health nurse emailed a Dyfodol Substance Misuse Team Manager and told her that Mr Uddin appeared to be withdrawing from heroin. She sent this email to make sure Dyfodol was aware of him.
19. On 3 January 2023, Mr Uddin sent a request to healthcare staff and asked them if he could have a methadone prescription (used to treat heroin withdrawal), because he was struggling. Healthcare staff passed Mr Uddin's request to the Dyfodol caseworker. The Team Manager arranged for a member of her team to complete a welfare check on Mr Uddin.
20. On 9 January, a member of the Dyfodol Team completed an assessment of needs with Mr Uddin following the concerns the mental health nurse had raised about his withdrawal. Mr Uddin said that he was opiate free and would not engage with Dyfodol on a one-to-one basis or with group support, but then asked for methadone. He also refused to engage with the Harm Reduction Team. The Head of Operations said that Mr Uddin was not on a methadone prescription while at Parc, as he was prescribed metoclopramide to manage his opiate withdrawal.

Pre-release planning

21. On 23 January, a resettlement practitioner sent an Employment, Training and Education (ETE) form to Careers Wales (an organisation who help individuals plan their careers, prepare for work and find apprenticeships and courses) and informed them that Mr Uddin was interested in working in construction. There is no record that Careers Wales responded to her.
22. That day, the resettlement practitioner also completed a referral for support with housing and sent this to Prison Link Wales (an organisation who support prison

leavers with housing issues). There is no record that Prison Link responded to the referral.

23. On 2 February, Mr Uddin's Community Offender Manager (COM) completed and sent a housing risk assessment to Housing Options (Cardiff Council's housing assessment service). Housing Options advised Mr Uddin to attend their office on the day of his release.
24. The next day, the COM and a Central Operational, Resettlement, Referrals and Evaluation practitioner (CORRE- assists Probation Officers to identify suitable interventions, helping to build sentence plans, completing referrals, monitoring progress and keeping the sentence on track) discussed Mr Uddin's sentence planning. Following their discussion, the CORRE practitioner referred Mr Uddin to the Forward Trust (a housing support service) to support him with finding accommodation on release.
25. On 6 February, a resettlement practitioner completed a resettlement interview with Mr Uddin. Mr Uddin said that he had suffered with substance misuse issues and had been using drugs for the past five years. He said that he had spent approximately £30 per day on crack cocaine and heroin, and that he funded his habit by begging on the streets or doing 'cash in hand' work.
26. Mr Uddin told the resettlement practitioner that he was homeless before coming into prison and had been sleeping rough for three to four years. Mr Uddin said that he would like to apply for housing in Swansea because his brother and mother were in that area. A few days later, the resettlement practitioner completed an accommodation referral to Prisoner Pathway in Swansea. We do not know the outcome of this referral.
27. On 9 March, a worker from the Forward Trust met Mr Uddin to discuss his housing options. She completed a homelessness action plan and planned to support Mr Uddin with finding and accessing suitable (supported) accommodation. On 17 March, the COM approved the action plan.
28. On 29 March, the worker had a pre-release meeting with Mr Uddin. He asked the Dyfodol caseworker if he could be released with a methadone prescription and told her that he would 'use drugs whether he was scripted or not'. Mr Uddin said that he struggled with anxiety and depression. She told Mr Uddin how to access support in the community and encouraged him to engage with Dyfodol. She noted that there was a risk that Mr Uddin could overdose in the community because of a decrease in his tolerance to opiates and noted that he understood this and the risk of overdose if he used opiates in the community.
29. The Dyfodol caseworker gave Mr Uddin naloxone (a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids) training and explained how it should be used. Mr Uddin demonstrated an understanding of how to manage an overdose and how naloxone could help him. She also provided nyxoid (a nasal spray medicine used for emergency treatment in case of known or suspected overdose of opioid drugs) training and Mr Uddin said that he would like to have nyxoid on release. Wales is an area that offer both naloxone and nyxoid to those who require it, on release. She informed the local pharmacy of this.

Post-release

30. On 4 April, Mr Uddin was released from Parc. A nyxoid kit was given to Mr Uddin.
31. Mr Uddin reported to the Cardiff Probation Office for his supervision appointment at 11:30am, and he met a Probation Officer. The Probation Officer noted that he had met Mr Uddin before, and that Mr Uddin engaged with him and looked well. The Probation Officer explained the terms of his licence and completed an induction.
32. Mr Uddin was released homeless. The Probation Officer discussed housing options with Mr Uddin and told him to go to Housing Options that day. He told Mr Uddin that if Housing Options did not have a place for him immediately, he should report to Tresillian (an emergency out of hours housing service) by 6.00pm. Housing Options also provide places in hostels and Mr Uddin was reluctant to go to the Huggard Centre (a hostel for people who are homeless) or Tresillian but told the Probation Officer that he would go. The Probation Officer told Mr Uddin that if he did not engage with Housing Options, he could be recalled to prison.
33. The Probation Officer also told Mr Uddin to go to Cardiff Central Police Station to see his Sexual and Violent Offender officer. He gave Mr Uddin the details of his next appointment with his COM, which was at 10.30am on 11 April.
34. That day at 1.00pm, a Dyfodol caseworker saw Mr Uddin at their office in Cardiff for his initial appointment. She offered Mr Uddin a naloxone kit, but he declined the offer. He said that he did not recall if the prison had given him a naloxone kit and that he did not want another one from her as he had no intention of using opiates. She encouraged Mr Uddin to take a naloxone kit. She told Mr Uddin that it could be used to support someone else who might have an overdose, but Mr Uddin declined.
35. At 6.30pm, Mr Uddin went to Cardiff Central Police Station and signed the Sex Offender Register. He told a police officer that he was going to Newport to get a replacement bank card from his bank.

Circumstances of Mr Uddin's death

36. On 5 April, police officers went to a car park in Newport and found a male body (identified as Mr Uddin) in a tent in an area beneath the car park. The police found drug paraphernalia including needles and sharps boxes near the body. Ambulance paramedics attended and confirmed that Mr Uddin had died.
37. There is no evidence of any suspicious circumstances or third-party involvement relating to Mr Uddin's death.

Post-mortem report

38. The post-mortem report gave Mr Uddin's cause of death as heroin and cocaine intake.
39. At the inquest held on the 1 May 2023, the Coroner concluded that Mr Uddin died of heroin and cocaine intake.

Findings

Substance misuse services

40. Mr Uddin had a long history of substance misuse and had previously worked with Dyfodol services both in the community and during his time in prison. Mr Uddin disclosed to probation staff that he continued to use drugs in the community, and this led to a chaotic lifestyle and repeat offending.
41. Dyfodol supported Mr Uddin with his substance misuse while at Parc and allocated a caseworker to him promptly. Mr Uddin was identified as being at risk of an opiate overdose and was given harm reduction information, naloxone training and he received a nyxoid kit on release. Appropriate referrals to community services were made for Mr Uddin prior to his release and he also met a Dyfodol worker on the day of his release.

Homelessness

42. Homelessness on release from prison is a significant and complex challenge. Mr Uddin was released from prison homeless.
43. While we are satisfied that prison and probation staff appropriately referred Mr Uddin in a timely manner, he was released homeless. The provision of suitable accommodation for people leaving prison, particularly for those with complex risks and needs, is an issue that extends beyond the remit of HMP Parc or the local probation services. Housing, accommodation services and the Local Authority may want to be aware of the significant issues raised in this case.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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