

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

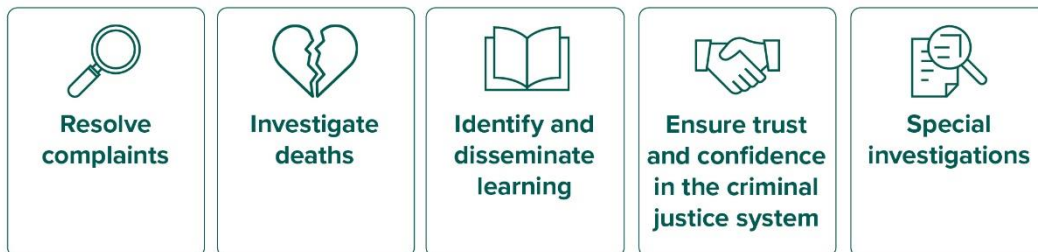
Independent investigation into the death of Mr Malcolm Bull a prisoner at HMP Stocken, on 10 September 2023

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 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 Malcolm Bull died from pancreatic cancer with liver, lung, lymph node metastases (cancer spreading to other organs in the body) on 10 September 2023, at Thorpe Hill Hospice. He was 68 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Bull's family and friends.
4. The PPO family liaison officer wrote to Mr Bull's next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters, they wanted us to consider. No response was received to our letter.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Bull's clinical care at HMP Stocken. She concluded that the clinical care Mr Bull received at Stocken was of a good standard and was equivalent to that which would have been received in the wider community.
6. The clinical reviewer made the following two recommendations related to Mr Bull's death that the Head of Healthcare and Governor will want to address:
 - **The Head of Healthcare at HMP Stocken is to ensure that all staff are trained and competent in the usage of the NEWS 2 scoring system and that all staff document a NEWS 2 score with every full set of physical observations to give a clear indication of the deteriorating patient and.**
 - **The Head of Healthcare is to ensure that all palliative care patients have a regular pressure ulcer risk assessment score in accordance with NICE Clinical Guideline CG 179 and that all staff are trained and competent in pressure ulcer risk assessment.**
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Bull's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern and we make no recommendations.
8. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the healthcare provider, Practice Plus Group. No factual inaccuracies were identified.
9. At the inquest held on the 5 March 2024, the coroner concluded that Mr Malcolm Ronald Bull died of natural causes.

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