

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Richard Jones, a prisoner at HMP Littlehey, on 16 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. On 16 September 2023, Mr Richard Jones died of bilateral bronchopneumonia (inflammation caused by an infection in both lungs) caused by squamous cell carcinoma of the oropharynx (throat cancer) while a prisoner at HMP Littlehey. He was 69 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Jones' family and friends.
4. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Jones' clinical care at HMP Littlehey.
5. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Jones received at HMP Littlehey was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that Mr Jones received excellent palliative care and end-of-life care planning.
6. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Jones' care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
7. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.
8. At the inquest held on the 25 March 2024, the coroner concluded that Mr Richard Jones died of natural causes.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

January 2024

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