

**Prisons &
Probation**

Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Colin Price, a prisoner at HMP Birmingham, on 23 January 2025

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

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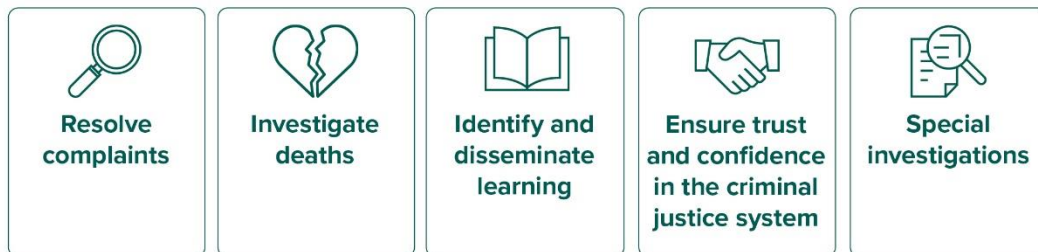
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OUR VISION

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. In November 2023, Mr Colin Price was sentenced to 14 years in prison for sex offences. He died in a hospice on 23 January 2025, while a prisoner at HMP Birmingham. The Coroner has given his provisional cause of death as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, the term for a group of serious lung diseases). Mr Price was 85 years old. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.
4. The Ombudsman's office wrote to Mr Price's next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. They did not respond.
5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Price's clinical care at HMP Birmingham.
6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Price received at Birmingham was of a good standard and was equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She made no recommendations.
7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Price's care.
8. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.
9. We shared our initial report with HMPPS and the prison's healthcare provider, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. They found no factual inaccuracies.
10. At the inquest, held on 28 July 2025, the Coroner confirmed that Mr Price had died from COPD and concluded that his death was from natural causes.

Adrian Usher
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

August 2025

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