Prisons & Probation Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Independent investigation into the death of Mr Mohammed Akhtar, a prisoner at HMP Stafford, on 6 August 2024

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

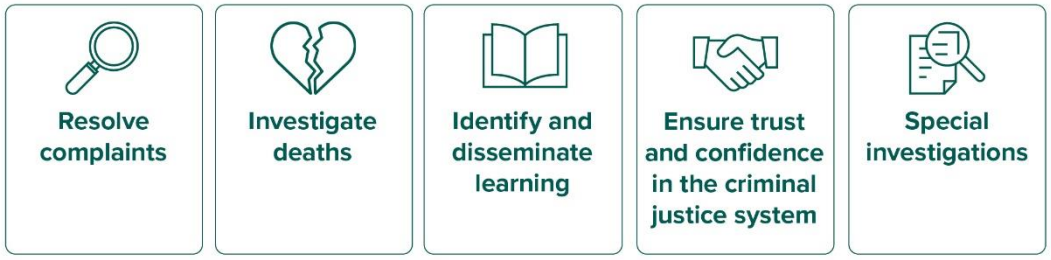
Email: mail@ppo.gov.uk
Web: www.ppo.gov.uk

T I 020 7633 4100

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

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 October 2023, Mr Mohammed Akhtar was sentenced to 11 years in prison for sexual offences. He died of lung cancer on 6 August 2024, while a prisoner at HMP Stafford. He was 54 years old. We offer our condolences to Mr Akhtar's family and friends.

4. The Ombudsman's office wrote to Mr Akhtar's next of kin to explain the investigation and to ask if they had any matters they wanted us to consider. They had no questions but asked for a copy of our report.

5. NHS England commissioned an independent clinical reviewer to review Mr Akhtar's clinical care at HMP Stafford.

6. The clinical reviewer concluded that the clinical care Mr Akhtar received at Stafford was of a good standard and equivalent to that which he could have expected to receive in the community. She found that he received compassionate care and good pain management. She also commended the healthcare staff for their efforts to persuade Mr Akhtar to comply with his medication and relocate to the specialist care unit within Stafford for end of life care.

7. The PPO investigator investigated the non-clinical issues relating to Mr Akhtar's care. We did not find any non-clinical issues of concern. We make no recommendations.

8. The initial report was shared with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). HMPPS did not find any factual inaccuracies.

9. Mr Akhtar's family received a copy of the draft report. They did not make any comments.

Adrian Usher **March 2025**
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Inquest

At the inquest held on 10 June 2025, the Coroner concluded that Mr Akhtar died of natural causes.

Prisons & Probation Ombudsman
Independent Investigations

Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

Email: mail@ppo.gov.uk
Web: www.ppo.gov.uk

T I 020 7633 4100