

4 April 2023

**Reference: FOI 460 Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your email, which we received on 9 March 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**You asked us:**

To provide details of the timelines associated with the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's (PPO) investigation into the death of Mr Wyndham Thomas at HMP Nottingham, which included:

1. What date were you informed of the death?
2. What date did you commence your investigation into the death?
3. What date was your investigation completed?
4. What date did you submit your initial and final report to the prison?
5. What date did the Inquest conclude?
6. What date did you publish your report on the internet?

**Our response:**

We have searched our records and we hold the requested information. A copy of the information that you requested is shown below.

1. What date were you informed of the death? 6 November 2018
2. What date did you commence your investigation into the death? 7 November 2018
3. What date was your investigation completed? 7 August 2020
4. What date did you submit your initial and final report to the prison? The initial report was issued on 14 May 2019 and the final report was issued on 7 August 2020.
5. What date did the Inquest conclude? 10 February 2023
6. What date did you publish your report on the internet? 9 March 2023

**Your asked us:**

What was the reason for a five-year four-month delay between the death and the publication on the PPO website?

**Our response:**

Our records show that the inquest concluded on 10 February 2023 and the report was published on 9 March 2023. As we explained in our responses to three of your previous Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, FOI 261, FOI 262 and FOI 303, we endeavour to publish our reports on our website as soon as possible after the inquest has concluded.

Each coroner's office works independently and inquests can occur a considerable time after we have shared our final report with stakeholders.

You have the right to appeal against our response if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) carries out **independent investigations** into complaints and deaths in custody. The detailed role and responsibilities of the PPO are set out in our office's Terms of Reference. The PPO has three main duties:

- to **investigate complaints** made by prisoners, young people in detention (prisons and secure training centres), offenders under probation supervision and individuals detained under immigration powers (detained individuals)
- to **investigate deaths** of prisoners, young people in detention, approved premises' residents and detained individuals due to any cause, including any apparent suicides and natural causes
- to **investigate deaths** of **recently released prisoners** that occur within 14 days of release from prison (except homicide)

The purpose of these investigations is **to understand what happened, to correct injustices** and **to identify learning** for the organisations whose actions we oversee so that the PPO makes a significant contribution to safer, fairer custody and offender supervision.

We may use or share your data only to the necessary extent when conducting our independent investigations in the exercise of our official authority. We will share your data with third parties (e.g. the prison) in order to make sure the information is accurate; to prevent or detect failings; and to identify lessons learnt. We may sometimes need to share your data with third parties if required by law. We only keep your personal data for as long as it is needed, as set out in our data retention policy. If you need any further information about how your data is used, please contact us.

## How to Appeal

### Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office **within two months of the date of this letter**, at the following address:

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman  
Third Floor  
10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU  
E-mail: Mail@ppo.gov.uk

### Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the ICO at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Internet address: <https://ico.org.uk/>