

17 April 2023

Reference: FOI 468 Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email, which we received on 13 April 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked us:

To provide the causes of death for the following prisoners:

- [REDACTED] who died on 13 September 2022 while in the custody of HMP Brixton.
- [REDACTED] who died on 9 November 2022 while in the custody of HMP High Down.
- [REDACTED] who died on 28 March 2022 while in the custody of HMP Wormwood Scrubs.
- [REDACTED] who died on 18 November 2022 while in the custody of HMP Stoke Heath.
- [REDACTED] who died on 28 December 2022 while in the custody of HMP Highpoint.
- [REDACTED] who died on 15 September 2022 while in the custody of HMP Stoke Heath.
- [REDACTED] who died on 16 December 2022 while in the custody of HMP Highpoint.

Our response:

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

Name	Cause of death (as determined by a pathologist during a post-mortem report)
[REDACTED]	1a) Opioid (heroin) poisoning. Cocaine toxicity. 2) Acute ethanolic intoxication. Steato-hepatitis.
[REDACTED]	1a) Sudden adult cardiac death. 1b) Acute cardiorespiratory failure. 1c) Under influence of several drugs including methadone, pregabalin & morphine / heroin. 2) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema & bronchiectasis.
[REDACTED]	1a) Asphyxiation 1b) Hanging
[REDACTED]	1a) Hanging

Following a search of our records, the information you requested for [REDACTED] is not held by us. For [REDACTED], we suggest you contact HM Coroner for Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire, as he may be able to provide this data, and his details are as follows:

HM Coroner's Court & Chambers
Stoke Town Hall
Kingsway
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 1HH

Alternatively, his email address is coroners@stoke.gov.uk

For [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], we suggest you contact HM Coroner for Greater Suffolk, as he may be able to provide this data, and his details are as follows:

HM Coroner for Greater Suffolk
Coroner's Office - Bury
Raingate Street
Bury St. Edmunds
IP33 2AP

Alternatively, his email address is coroners.service@suffolk.gov.uk

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.

1b) Acute cardiorespiratory failure

1c) Under influence of several drugs including methadone, pregabalin & morphine / heroin

2) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema & bronchiectasis

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/>