



The  
**Prisoner  
Ombudsman**  
for Northern Ireland

## **INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO THE DEATH OF MR S WHO DIED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019, TEN DAYS AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM MAGILLIGAN PRISON**

When notified that a person has died within fourteen days of their release from prison, I have the discretion to investigate, to the extent appropriate, matters related to the care they received in prison.

Mr S was released on licence from Magilligan prison on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and he died ten days later on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019. He was 41 years old. His death was drug related.

Due to time spent on remand, Mr S was in custody for only seven weeks. In that time he regularly attended substitution therapy and appointments with the prison's drug and alcohol support service, the housing rights officer and his Personal Development Coordinator, who coordinated arrangements for his release.

I am satisfied, given the short time Mr S was in prison, that appropriate actions were taken to manage his return to the community.

I shared my findings with Mr S' next of kin and while they acknowledge the arrangements made for his release, they have concerns about his treatment during earlier periods of custody.

I have assured the family that should any new information come to light which indicates that an aspect of his care or treatment in prison directly continued to his death, I will revisit my findings.

Based on the information I have considered to date, I conclude there are no matters relating to Mr S' management and care provided by the Northern Ireland Prison Service or South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust that require further investigation.

Mr S' case highlights a number of broader matters which impact on the ability of the Prison Service and its partner agencies to support an individual's rehabilitation



The  
**Prisoner  
Ombudsman**  
for Northern Ireland

including the short time he spent in sentenced custody and the absence of a pre-sentence report at the point of sentencing to inform release planning. I will keep these matters under review.

I offer my sincere condolences to Mr S' family for their sad loss.

**DR LESLEY CARROLL**  
**Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland**  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019