

**Mick Antoniw MS**

Chair

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

03 July 2020

Dear Mick

**Letter from Sue McAllister, Prison and Probation Ombudsman: end of life care in prisons.**

In my capacity as Chair to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, I have received a letter from Sue McAllister, Prison and Probation Ombudsman expressing her concerns regarding end of life care in prisons.

During our meeting yesterday, Members agreed to share a copy of the letter with your Committee as it may be of interest to your inquiry on making justice work for Wales. Please find this attached.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dai Lloyd MS

**Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**



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Probation**

**Ombudsman**  
Independent Investigations

**Sue McAllister CB**  
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
**BY EMAIL**

23 June 2020

Dear Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

I have recently been contacted by the Commons Justice Select Committee at the UK Parliament to provide written evidence for their inquiry into the ageing prison population. In my evidence about end of life care in prisons, I referred to an investigation we carried out into a death in custody at HMP Parc. As we have provided this evidence to the Commons Justice Select Committee I thought that it was also appropriate to share the same evidence with you.

Following an investigation into a death in custody at HMP Parc in August 2019 we raised some concerns about the care provided. The individual suffered from dementia and was referred for assessment, however there was disagreement with the Local Health Board as to who was funded to assess and provide support. The Local Health Board failed over a period of years to reach a solution to enable the individual to access appropriate specialist care for dementia. We recommended that discussions took place with the Local Health Board to ensure that patients with suspected dementia at HMP Parc have access to full service provisions. We are waiting for confirmation as to whether these discussions have taken place.

We would also like to take this opportunity to raise our concerns about the length of time it takes for inquests to be held in Wales. As an example, there was a death in a Secure Children's Home in Wales in February 2017 and we are still waiting for notification of an inquest date. There was also a death in custody that occurred at HMP Swansea in March 2014 and the inquest only concluded in February 2020. These are quite significant delays that are causing upset to bereaved families.

Please get in touch if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



**Sue McAllister CB**  
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Cc Healthcare Inspectorate Wales