

**REPORT BY THE PRISONER OMBUDSMAN INTO THE
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF MR FRANK LAFFIN
WHO DIED WHILST IN THE CUSTODY OF MAGILLIGAN PRISON ON
26 AUGUST 2012
AGED 60**

Mr Frank Laffin was 60 years old when he died on 26 August 2012, whilst in the custody of the Northern Ireland Prison service. Mr Laffin had been diagnosed with a terminal illness in April 2011.

Mr Laffin had been serving his sentence at Magilligan Prison however, due to the nature of his illness, he spent several periods being cared for in the Northern Ireland Hospice, Somerton Road, Belfast.

Following an assessment of Mr Laffin's healthcare needs on 26 July 2012, he was transferred to the Northern Ireland Hospice where he was remained and was cared for until the date of his death.

The Prisoner Ombudsman has carried out a review of evidence relating to the death of Mr Laffin and has also met with Mr Laffin's family. In light of her early findings the Prisoner Ombudsman determined that there was no requirement to carry out a full investigation into the death of Mr Laffin.

Caring for someone with a terminal illness in prison presents particular challenges and Mr Laffin's family confirmed that they were very happy with the care and compassion that was shown to him by both prison and hospice staff. Their comments have been passed on to all concerned.
