

**REPORT BY THE PRISONER OMBUDSMAN INTO THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF MR WILLIAM  
DEVINE WHO DIED WHILST IN THE CUSTODY OF MAGHABERRY  
PRISON ON 28 MAY 2012  
AGED 71**

Mr William Devine was 71 years old when he died on 28 May 2012, whilst in the custody of Maghaberry Prison. Up until 22 May 2012 Mr Devine was serving his prison sentence in Magilligan Prison however, following an assessment of Mr Devine's medical needs he was transferred to Maghaberry Prison (Healthcare) on 23 May 2012.

Following a high level review of evidence relating to Mr Devine who died in Maghaberry Prison Healthcare Centre on 28 May 2012 from advanced cancer, the Prisoner Ombudsman also met with the Devine family. In light of her early findings the Prisoner Ombudsman determined that there was no requirement for the Prisoner Ombudsman to carry out a full investigation into the death of Mr Devine.

Caring for someone with a life limiting illness in prison presents particular challenges. The evidence received, and the feedback from the Devine family, suggest that prison and healthcare staff showed great care and compassion in looking after Mr Devine and responding to his needs and those of his family. It would appear that Mr Devine was also grateful for the friendship and support of other inmates.

Mr Devine's family spoke very highly of the thoughtfulness and kindness of staff at both Magilligan and Maghaberry and these thoughts have been passed on to all concerned.

**Pauline McCabe**  
**Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland**  
**29 June 2012**