

Michael's story

27 years old

Michael was murdered in 2016 in an unprovoked attack by a Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) who should have been carefully managed and monitored by the Integrated Offender Management Programme under the National Probation Service. Michael was 27 years old.

The offender, Timothy Deakin, had an extensive criminal history, with at least 55 previous convictions, but had been released early from a 56-month prison sentence for biting off somebody's ear in another unprovoked attack.

Following his release, Deakin was subject to a number of licence conditions because a risk assessment identified that he was capable of extreme violence towards adult males - a risk further exacerbated by drug use (specifically cocaine).

Deakin was scheduled for weekly drug testing which was not adhered to. On the occasions where this was enforced, he repeatedly tested positive for cocaine use.

His probation officer never checked the results and therefore never took any action against him, despite the increased threat that he posed to the general public.

The National Probation Service was two years overdue in implementing an instant drug testing procedure which would have provided immediate results and clear evidence of offender licence breaches. Record keeping was also found to be inadequate.



During his time in the Integrated Offender Management Programme, the offender had **three** different Offender Managers - two of whom were found to have made **significant individual failures** to manage him appropriately and **significant systemic failures** were identified.

There were **several missed opportunities to recall him to prison**, despite him breaching licence conditions numerous times - with offences such as **drug use**, **breached curfews**, being **arrested for driving without a licence**, and **suspected drug dealing**.