



Office of Manpower Economics

PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY
8TH FLOOR
FLEETBANK HOUSE
2-6 SALISBURY SQUARE
LONDON EC4Y 8JX

Direct Telephone Line 020 7211 8257
E-mail elizabeth.waterfall@beis.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prison-services-pay-review-body>

The Right Honourable
David Gauke MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

27 July 2018

BY EMAIL

Dear Lord Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 July, regarding the Government's decision in relation to the recommendations made by the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB).

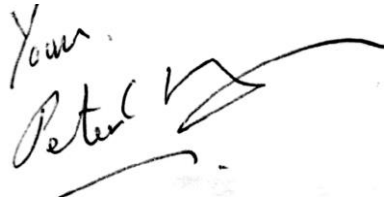
The PSPRB reached its recommendations based on the evidence that the Minister and HMPPS presented to us on behalf of the Government, as well as that from workforce representatives. We also took into account what we saw and heard from governors and uniform grades on our visits to prisons. We did not consider the desirability or otherwise of a consistent approach across different public sector workforces, as such a policy is not in our Terms of Reference, nor was it implied in the Government's evidence.

You will be aware that prison officers do not have the right to take industrial action. This is a contentious issue and was the subject of a formal application to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) by the POA in 2005. In the course of those hearings the Government gave a clear and unequivocal undertaking to the ILO that it would accept the recommendations of the PSPRB, in its role as a compensatory mechanism for the loss of the right to strike, and "they would only be departed from in exceptional circumstances". That pledge has never been rescinded, and successive Governments have abided by it.



I am not clear from your letter what the “exceptional circumstances” are for not accepting our most recent recommendations. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with either yourself or Rory Stewart as soon as reasonably practicable to discuss this further.

Yours,
Peter Knight

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the word "Peter" followed by a stylized surname "Knight" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Dr Peter Knight
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body*