

**To: The Chair of the Probation Board
The Chief of the Probation Board
The Head of Human Resources
The Secretary of the Probation Board
Members of the NNC**

22nd March 2006

NNC CIRCULAR NO.3/2006

Dear Sir/Madam

Strike Action in the Probation Service over the LGPS Dispute

Protocol in respect of Probation Hostels

Agreed between the Probation service Employers, the PBA and the NPD, and the Probation Service Unions, Napo, Unison and GMB/SCOOP

In respect of the strike action in the Probation Service, due to commence with a one day strike on Wednesday 28th March 2006, the Probation Service trade unions have not exempted their members in hostels from the strike action, but are agreed that it would not be their intention to close hostels.

The trade unions will not therefore stand in the way of management seeking to keep hostels open, and they are encouraging their local branches to discuss the relevant arrangements with management in their Areas.

For their part, local Employers should ensure that the relevant arrangements for keeping hostels open during the strike period, which will run from midnight on March 27th to midnight on March 28th, are fully discussed with the local union representatives.

The trade unions are also advising their members not to picket hostels. Picketing would attract unhelpful press and community attention to hostels, which is not to be encouraged at any time, but especially in the current climate of heightened media interest in the Service's public protection work following some high profile cases.

Employers should accept that hostel members on strike may wish to picket their nearest other office or the main Probation Area Head Offices.

Advice regarding this Circular is available from the Joint Secretaries.

Yours faithfully

Martin Wargent
Judy McKnight

Joint Secretaries