

FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Peter May

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via email: Elizabeth.Waterfall@beis.gov.uk

Mr Jerry Cope
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body
Office of Manpower Economics
8th Floor, Fleetbank House
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Dear Jerry

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE 2019/20 PAY ROUND

I am writing to request the re-engagement of the Prison Service Pay Review Body to provide a Report and recommendations in respect of 2019 pay for operational staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Ronnie Armour, Director General of the NI Prison Service, and I were very pleased with the approach taken to the 2018 pay round and the work that has begun to address relativities and low pay. Your 2018 recommendations were within the same cost envelope as NIPS proposals, but the Department of Finance has a responsibility to ensure there is consistency of pay awards across the public sector in Northern Ireland.

In addition to taking this responsibility into account in making recommendations for 2019, I would also ask the Pay Review Body to:

- be cognisant of Northern Ireland Public Sector Pay guidance;
- ensure that the award is affordable within the existing NIPS budget; and
- make further progress on addressing relativities and lower paid staff through a targeted approach to pay.

This activation letter is being issued now as it would be our intention to finalise the pay settlement earlier, subject to timescales for evidence, reporting, and the issuing of public sector pay guidance. Finally, I would ask you to note that this letter is issued subject to the views of an incoming Minister of Justice. Departmental officials will continue to liaise with the Secretariat in respect of local political developments.

Yours sincerely



PETER MAY