

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Mr Tim Flesher
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body
Office of Manpower Economics
8th Floor, Fleetbank House
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LONDON
EC4Y 8JX

SM March 2020

Dear Tim,

I am writing to formally request the engagement of the Prison Service Pay Review Body to provide a Report and recommendations in respect of 2020 pay for operational staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service for the 12 month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

I am conscious that Northern Ireland Departmental budgets are not yet set, and Northern Ireland public sector pay guidance has yet to be set. NIPS officials will ensure you are kept informed of developments to ensure you are fully sighted on the issues of affordability and authorisation for the 2020 pay round.

I would ask the Pay Review Body to:

- be cognisant of Northern Ireland Public Sector Pay guidance; and
- ensure that the award is affordable within the existing NIPS budget.

In doing so, there are two key aims which must be addressed:

- to make substantial time bound progress on relativities; and
- to continue to focus on lower paid salaries to ensure they remain competitive in comparison to wider market rates.

NIPS Officials will liaise with the Secretariat to agree the timescales, and will work with the Review Body to deliver against our key aims.

I look forward to receiving your report and recommendations on the pay of prison grade staff for 2020, and I thank you and your members for your commitment and support.

Best Regards,
Naomi

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice