



Department of
Justice

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**FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
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Mr Tim Flesher CB
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body
Level 3
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0TL
Via email - PSPRB@beis.gov.uk

4 April 2023

Dear Tim

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE 2023/24 PAY ROUND

I would like to thank the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSRPB) for their continued hard work and dedication to the pay of operational prison grades within the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Substantial progress was made to pay structures as a result of the 2022 round, and I am pleased we were able to accept all your recommendations and obtain the additional resources required to fund them.

I am now writing to request the engagement of the Prison Service Pay Review Body to provide a Report and recommendations in respect of 2023 pay.

You will be aware that the Secretary of State, Chris Heaton-Harris, made a Parliamentary statement on 24 November 2022 in which he explained the need for action to put Northern Ireland public finances on a sustainable footing. In the absence of an Executive, he confirmed he would consider wide-ranging options for revenue raising and a review of all spending for 2023/24. It is against this backdrop that we are asking the Pay Review Body to make recommendations for 2023. In making your recommendations you must:

- be cognisant of Northern Ireland Public Sector Pay guidance (when published);
- ensure that affordability is central to your recommendations, especially in light of the 2022 proposals which went beyond our funded proposals. Any such



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recommendations in 2023 would have to be considered within the budgetary context outlined above; and

- continue to close existing differentials between pre 2002 and post 2002 grades and avoid the re-opening of any pay gaps.

This activation letter is being issued now to allow for time-tabling of evidence and reporting. I would also ask you to note that this letter is issued subject to the views of an incoming Minister of Justice.

Colleagues here will liaise with the Secretariat in respect of dates for written and oral evidence, and share any political developments that occur which would have a bearing on this process.

I am copying this letter to Ronnie Armour for information.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY CB