



Prison Service Pay Review Body

PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY
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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prison-services-pay-review-body>

Rt Hon Edward Argar MP
Minister of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

18 January 2024

Dear Minister,

PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY 2024-25 REMIT

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2023, asking the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) to re-engage for the 2024-25 pay round.

I have asked our secretariat to liaise with officials at His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the trade unions with the aim of commissioning evidence and producing a report for 2024 as soon as is practicable.

I note that you have requested we submit our report in May 2024 and state that this would be subject to further discussion with our secretariat and your department's ability to submit its written evidence by February 2024. To ensure that we are in a position to deliver our 2024 report in May we would need to receive all the written evidence by 2 February. Our secretariat has already let all the parties know that this is the case. We take our role very seriously and have an established timetable to follow once we have received the written evidence from all parties. This schedule ensures we have the necessary time to fully consider all the information before us to make our evidence-based decisions. Therefore, delivering our report by the end of May is dependent on receiving all written evidence in early February.

Our 2023 round and several recent rounds have been delayed by the late arrival of both the activation letter and the Government's written evidence and we were very keen this year to have taken some steps towards getting the process closer to being back on track for this 2024 report. However, we would have needed to receive the Government's written evidence before the end of 2023 for this to happen. I recognise the issues faced by HMPPS but receiving their pay award on 1 April is very important to our remit group. We have frequently heard from them, especially on our visits, that delayed payment, even with the appropriate back-pay, can cause unnecessary hardship. Therefore, we are disappointed to be running to a similar timetable to last year and very much hope we can take steps towards getting the pay round back on to its former timetable for the next round. I know that you and HMPPS share this aspiration.

I look forward to receiving the written evidence from HMPPS, and to meeting and hearing from you at our Ministerial oral evidence session later in the spring.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Flesher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Flesher
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body