FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Our Ref: SUB-1129-2024

Mr Tim Flesher
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body
3rd Floor, Windsor House
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LONDON
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27 March 2024

Dear Tim,

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE 2024/25 PAY ROUND

I would like to thank the Prison Service Pay Review Body for their continued hard work and dedication to Prison Service pay, and I record my appreciation for the focus over the last few years on the necessary changes to pay structures.

I am writing to request the engagement of the Prison Service Pay Review Body to provide a Report and recommendations in respect of the 2024 pay round for the 12-month period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. I recognise the frustration from staff in the length of time it takes to deliver pay awards, however; in the absence of multi-year budget settlements there is limited ability to streamline the process. I will, of course, ask that officials aim for implementation inside of the pay year.

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I would ask the Pay Review Body to:

- be cognisant of Northern Ireland Public Sector Pay guidance (when published);
- ensure consistency with wider public sector pay policy; and
- ensure that any increases to pay and allowances are confined within the budget set for pay by the Department of Justice for operational prison grades, given the issues of affordability that the Executive is dealing with across all Northern Ireland departments.

I am delighted that all of the Prison Service Pay Review Body recommendations for 2022 and 2023 were implemented. This has delivered significant pay increases to staff in recognition of the important work they do by keeping in secure, safe, and humane custody those committed by the courts, and working with those individuals placed in our care to reduce the risk of reoffending.

Myself and officials welcome the opportunity to discuss what is achievable, as part of the evidence sessions, at which stage the parameters for the 2024 pay round will be shared. Your independence and expertise in delivering an affordable and effective pay strategy is welcomed.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Officials will liaise with the Secretariat to agree the timescales, and will work with the Review Body to deliver against the key aims for NIPS.

I thank you and your members for your continued commitment and support to the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



I am copying this letter to Beverley Wall, Director General, Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Yours sincerely

NAOMI LONG MLA Minister of Justice

Naerei Rhong.

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.