



Tijs Broeke
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body
Level 3
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

MoJ ref: SUB135936

15 July 2026

Dear Tijs,

THE PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY (PSPRB) REMIT 2027/28

I would like to thank you and wider Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) members for your continued work and dedication to Prison Service Pay for our hardworking staff, and for your ongoing commitment to the shared ambition to reset the timetable. I was pleased that we were again successfully able to accelerate the timeline in 2026/27, delivering pay awards to staff earlier than has been the case for a number of years.

The government values the vital contribution made by the almost six million public sector workers across the UK, who deliver the public services we all rely upon. This includes the excellent work of our Prison Service staff in protecting the public, maintaining safe, decent, and secure prison regimes in an ageing estate, and providing opportunity for rehabilitation whilst implementing the provisions of the Sentencing Act 2026 to address the acute capacity challenges this government inherited. The government accepted all recommendations from the PSPRB for the 2026/27 pay round. This represented an increase of at least 3.5% for all operational prison staff, delivering another pay rise on top of the awards provided in the previous two years.

As the Spending Review confirmed, all pay must be funded from departmental budgets and there will be no additional funding available for pay settlements. My department's evidence will set out the funds available to MoJ/HMPPS for 2027/28. It will also set out the recruitment and retention context alongside earnings data. This will need to be balanced against other departmental priorities including improving prison capacity through an increase to prison places and delivering reforms recommended through the Independent Sentencing Review.

I am writing to formally commence the 2027/28 pay round and to set out how the government intends to work with the PSPRB over the coming year. I am also asking you to provide recommendations in line with your terms of reference. In the spirit of the strong engagement that exists with our recognised trade unions, we will actively explore areas where we are aligned, with the ambition to provide joint evidence where feasible.

We have taken steps in recent years to ensure that public sector workers delivering vital public services receive more timely pay awards.

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Since the 2024 general election, we have accelerated the PSPRB timetable by around four months, and I am pleased to be progressing in line with the realigned timeline in 2027/28. I am grateful for your ongoing shared ambition to accelerate timings, and I ask if you could support an earlier pay announcement by submitting your report at the earliest point which allows you to give due consideration to the relevant evidence. To support this, my department will aim to meet your deadlines and bring the evidence process forward.

I look forward to working with you and the wider PSPRB during the upcoming pay round.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James', written in a cursive style.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

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