

Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



PGA Office: Room G.07
Clive House
70 Petty France,
London, SW1H 4EX

PGA Officers: President
Vice President
Finance Officer
National Officers

Andrea Albutt
Nick Pascoe
Shaun Williamson
John Attard
Dave Hoskins
Duncan Scales

Telephone: 020 3193 5770

Email: james.bryant01@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.prison-governors-association.org.uk



@PGA_Prisons

PRESS RELEASE

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PGA 30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 10 -11 OCTOBER 2017

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The 30th Annual Conference of the Prison Governors Association will take place between 10 and 11 October, 2017, at the Radisson Blu East Midlands Airport Hotel, Derby, DE74 2TZ.

2017 has been the most challenging period prisons have faced for many decades. Violence statistics have been the highest on record, along with suicides peaking at the beginning of the year. HMIP Reports show a worsening position in many of our prisons with poor regimes, poor relationships, poor infra-structure much of which is linked to lack of resources, both human and pounds, shillings and pence. With 40 prisons of concern, 10 of which are very concerning the future remains fairly bleak. Sadly, the level of incidents and the regularity in which they happen seems to have de-sensitised us somewhat and has become the norm in many prisons. What has this meant for our members? You continue to work harder and longer in an attempt move prisons forward, sometimes succeeding sometimes not. Many of you feel demoralised and undervalued with a pay and reward package that does not reflect the complexities and risks in the operational line. You are frustrated, tired, angry and as yet do not see any benefits from the alleged Reform promised by the Government.

The Prison Safety and Reform Programme in MOJ is the answer to all the issues we face? Probably not based on the current position. As yet we have seen nothing tangible coming out of the Programme to ease the burden on prisons. The void between policy and operations is vast. It seems that MOJ require information, information, information generating more work for stretched teams in prisons with no tangible outcomes. How can we own something that is done to us by people with absolutely no understanding of our very unique environment?

This year we have the best attended Conference many of us have seen. We have a true representation of Members which bodes well for a healthy and informative debate. The next two days will give a clear mandate to the National Executive Committee of the focus in the coming year. Our commitment to you is stronger than ever in these difficult times and we will continue to serve the Membership, challenging both MOJ and HMPPS with tenacious verve.

Guest Speakers this year will include:-

Ronnie Armour	-	Director General, Northern Ireland Prison Service
Richard Burgon MP	-	Shadow Secretary of State for Justice
Michael Spurr	-	Director of Public Sector Prisons, HMPPS

Media interviews can be arranged.

Conference Agenda 2017

Day 1 – Tuesday 10 October, 2017

0800 - 0945	Registration / Tea / Coffee
0945	Welcome by Conference Chair, Eoin McLennan-Murray
0950	President’s Opening Address – Andrea Albutt
1005	Standing Orders’ Committee Chair – Procedures and Rules of Debate – Kevin Billson
1010	Resolutions
1030	Tea / Coffee
1050	National Officers’ Report
1130	Ronnie Armour, Director General, NIPS
1200	Finance Officer’s Report
1215	Conference Charity – UK Sepsis Trust
1230	Lunch
1330	Scotland Report
1345	Northern Ireland Report
1400	Guest Speaker: Richard Burgon MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice
1445	Prisoner Learning Alliance
1500	Tea / Coffee / Room Check-In
1545	Resolutions
1715	Membership Report – Kevin Billson
1730	Close
2000	Conference Dinner in the Wheatcroft (Smart)

Day 2 – Wednesday 11 October, 2017

0915	Resolutions
0950	Personal Case Report
1000	Tea / Coffee
1030	Resolutions
1100	Guest Speaker: Michael Spurr, Chief Executive Officer, HMPPS
1200	Lunch
1300	Resolutions
1530 approx.	Closing Remarks: Andrea Albutt, PGA President

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Note for editors:

The Prison Governors Association was founded in October 1987 to represent the higher operational managers in the Prison Service in England and Wales. The PGA was placed on the register of Trade Unions on 6 November 1987 (No. 639T). On 28 July 1988 the Certification Officer under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 issued the Prison Governors Association with a Certificate of Independence. The status of the Prison Governors Association is that of an independent registered Trade Union.

For more information contact John Attard (Mob: 07772 659945; john.attard@hmps.gsi.gov.uk) or James Bryant, PGA Office Manager, on 07884 434814; email: james.bryant01@hmps.gsi.gov.uk.