

Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



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HMP BIRMINGHAM

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The Prison Governors Association (PGA) acknowledges with regret the current situation facing HMP Birmingham. The prison has, for many years, been one of the most challenging in the system irrelevant of it being run by the Private or Public Sector. Like many large, Victorian, inner city prisons, it is overcrowded, has a high churn prisoner population with the associated issues of drugs, violence, mental health and organised crime groups infiltrating the prison. It has struggled to recruit and retain staff resulting in a workforce which is new in service, lacking the experience and confidence to build relationships with a volatile prisoner population. The riot in December 2016 was the worst seen in recent decades and HMP Birmingham has struggled to recover from the impact this had on both staff and prisoners.

The PGA hopes that in HMPPS stepping in to support the prison, that adequate resource and investment is made available to achieve long term change. The crisis facing a significant number of prisons is as a direct result of Government austerity measures and clearly demonstrates that prisons cannot be run on the cheap. This is not about Public vs Private but about ensuring prisons are adequately funded so they are safe, decent and secure, for all who live and work in them, whilst delivering a rehabilitative environment.

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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.

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