

# Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPARTURE OF MICHAEL SPURR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HER MAJESTY'S PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICE**

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Michael Spurr has given many years of dedicated Service to HMPS/NOMS/HMPPS, therefore it is with mixed emotions the PGA greet the news of his departure. During his tenure Michael initially led an organisation which was adequately funded, performing well and seen as an example of an excellent penal system.

Sadly from the period of 2012 until around 18 months ago, Michael Spurr has been required to reduce the cost of running prisons by 20 percent. With hindsight we can all say that Benchmarking was the wrong decision, but how else could such austerity be achieved? Whatever route was taken it probably would have ended up in the crisis we are facing today and our inability to respond.

The current crisis cannot be levelled at Michael Spurr as this is clearly a result of Government policy over the last decade, driven by the myriad of Secretaries of State and Prison Ministers, along with austerity and changes in strategic direction.

What we do know is that Michael has been a dedicated servant to HMPS over a number of years. A man who cares deeply about Prisons and in losing him, we lose someone with a wealth of corporate knowledge and understanding at a time when we probably need the stability of such a character more than ever.

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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 James Bryant, PGA Office Manager, on 07884 434814; email: [james.bryant01@hmps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:james.bryant01@hmps.gsi.gov.uk)