

# Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



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## Bulletin 773

31 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Bonus Payment

We have been inundated with queries over the last few days and those we could answer immediately we did. The following are answers to the most common questions.

- HQ staff not deployed to a prison will get £1,500
- Part time staff will get the full £1,500
- The additional £150 is for prison based staff in recognition of the challenging working environment
- The £1,500 is in recognition of increased working hours above your contracted 37 hours
- All staff will be opted in
- There will be an opt out clause for those who do not wish to work additional hours
- Further guidance will be published imminently along with FAQ's
- There have been a number of queries raised about COVID payments and pensions, this is not something we are able to give advice on due to the complex nature of pensions. Please direct questions to HMPPS through your line manager or seek independent advice

### Teleconference with Prisons Minister, Lucy Frazer MP

I had a conversation with Lucy Frazer today. She thanked the membership for the hard work they are doing in such a challenging period. I pointed out that despite the mitigation sometimes risk remains very high and we hope there will not be a blame culture if things do not work out as we would want. She acknowledged this.

We discussed testing for staff and prisoners and she was in agreement it should happen and is working hard to achieve this whilst still listening to PHE research and a finite number of testing kits.

She thinks PPE is an improving picture. We would welcome feedback on this.

We spoke about reducing the prison population to manage the risk. She is looking at all options including executive release but no decisions have been made yet. I pointed out time was not on our side and decisions needed to be made at speed to have impact.

### Justice Committee

I gave evidence to the Justice Committee this afternoon on the impact of COVID-19 in prisons. The story you have told us has been told to Sir Bob and the committee.

### Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) - Oral Evidence

On Thursday, Mitch, Carl and I will give oral evidence to PSPRB via teleconference. Despite the challenging circumstances we have prepared well and will give our best shot at getting you a decent pay award - after all, austerity is over!

### Media

We have had significant media interest with much of the conversations being published online, in newspaper outlets and news channels. Sadly I was waiting to do a live Skype interview with Sky News just as the news broke of Boris Johnson being positive for COVID-19. I, as a President was bumped for a Prime Minister!

Look after yourselves,

Andrea

**Andrea Albutt**  
**President**