

# Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom since 1987



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **A BROKEN PRISON SYSTEM**

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The Prison Governors Association are currently holding their 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport.

Delegates have voiced their concerns over what has been described as a complete failure of Government to halt the present decline in prisons.

Recruitment and retention has seen the worst level of resources in living memory with some prisons delivering restricted regimes which do not support prisoners in our care or serve our communities in reducing risks prior to release.

There remains a distinct lack of investment with our Prison Service, buildings are not fit for purpose and Governors, who care deeply about their prisons lack the real autonomy to make any tangible difference. Much of this is impacted by severe politicisation of prisons. We do not see such ministerial micromanagement within health or armed forces, so why prisons which are constantly buffered by politics?

Conference is appalled at the complete failure of government to prevent the decline in prisons. The numerous white papers and initiatives from eight Justice Secretaries since 2010 has done little to halt this decline and may in fact have exacerbated it.

The abuse to the public purse on these political wishes is unacceptable and it has been an abject failure.

Prison Governors call on Government to appoint a Royal Commission to interrogate this failure and make long term recommendations on the future of prison.

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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 Andrea Albutt, PGA President on 07966 114773 or James Bryant, PGA Office Manager, 07846 021597.

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