

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

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Our Ref: SUB-0077-2026

Mr Tijs Broeke  
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body  
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SW1H 9NA

[PSPRB@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:PSPRB@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

5 March 2026

Dear Tijs

## **THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE 2025/26 PAY ROUND**

I would like to thank the Prison Service Pay Review Body for its continued work and dedication to Prison Service pay. The Review Body's endorsement of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) proposals for 2025/26 greatly assisted the approval of significant changes to pay structures and timely payment.

I am writing to request that the Prison Service Pay Review Body now commence its work with a view to providing a Report and recommendations in respect of the 2026 pay round for the 12-month period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

I would ask the Pay Review Body to:

- provide recommendations in line with your terms of reference;
- be cognisant of Northern Ireland Public Sector Pay guidance;
- ensure consistency with wider public sector pay policy; and

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- ensure that any increases to pay and allowances are confined within the budget set for pay by the Department of Justice (NI) for operational prison grades, given the issues of affordability that the Executive is dealing with across all Northern Ireland departments this year.

While the 2024 pay award was implemented in January 2025, the 2025 pay award was implemented in August 2025. I hope that the timeline for evidence in 2026 allows for an early settlement too.

My officials and I welcome the opportunity to discuss what is achievable, as part of the evidence sessions, at which stage the parameters for the 2026 pay round will be shared. Your independence and expertise in delivering an affordable and effective pay strategy is welcomed.

NIPS officials have been liaising with the Secretariat to agree the timescales and will work with the Review Body to deliver against the key aims for NIPS. I thank you and your members for your continued commitment and support.

I am copying this letter to Beverley Wall, Director General, Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Yours sincerely



**NAOMI LONG MLA**  
**Minister of Justice**

Cc: Beverley Wall, NIPS

*Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.*