



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair of the Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB132947

26 March 2026

Dear Andy,

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY
RECOMMENDATIONS 26/27**

I am writing to inform you of the Government's response to the Prison Service Pay Review Body's (PSPRB) Twenty-Fifth report on England and Wales for 2026/27, which I intend to announce publicly later today.

I have carefully considered the recommendations, and I am pleased to announce that we will be accepting all 12 recommendations in full.

This pay award will deliver a pay rise of at least 3.5% of base pay for all eligible prison staff between Operational Support Grade and Governors (Bands 2-11), with a targeted focus on the lowest paid as Band 2 staff will receive the award in addition to the National Living Wage increase applied from 1st April 2026.

This pay award announcement represents another positive step towards this Government's continued aim of delivering a timelier pay round for staff.

This Government recognises the essential role played by the more than 6 million public sector workers make across the UK, who provide the public services we all rely upon. Accepting the PSPRB's recommendations is expected to further stabilise the recruitment and retention position in the Prison Service. This is vital to ensure that prisons have the staff they need to deal with an increasing population and ageing estate. It also recognises the unwavering dedication of our prison staff, whose work is largely out of view of the public, but is vital for those under their care and to keep the public safe.

The Written Ministerial Statement confirming the Government response will be laid before Parliament today.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending