



**The Professional Trades Union for Prison,  
Correctional & Secure Psychiatric Workers**

**REF:** PR/200/2019  
**DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019  
**TO:** ALL POLITICAL EDITORS, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENTS AND  
INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENTS

**PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release**

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST PRISON STAFF OUT OF CONTROL**

The POA for many years have been warning of the Crisis within our jails and the rising violence which are now at record levels in England and Wales, The disgraceful violence on Prison Staff at Feltham Young Offenders Institution is testament to the problem, At the weekend 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 20 Prison Staff were assaulted with 13 Officers requiring hospital treatment.

Steve Gillan General Secretary of the POA stated:

***“The Secretary of State Mr Gauke needs to step up and take responsibility. This is on his watch and the sickening violence against Prison Staff is out of control. Instead of talking everything Brexit he needs to focus on the crisis in our Prisons. It can be fixed but he needs to start listening. By saying nothing about the weekends violence makes him look as if he doesn’t care and that Prison Staff are not top of his agenda when it comes to safety.”***

The POA are calling for Mr Gauke to now meet as a matter of urgency regarding violence with National Officials.

**ENDS**

**For further information, contact:**  
POA Press Office

020 8803 0255 Option 7