



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

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General Secretary: Steve Gillan

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POA Circular 038/2019

Action		Information	
England/Wales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	England/Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scotland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Ireland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Hospitals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
IRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IRC	<input type="checkbox"/>

29th April 2019

Dear Colleagues

UPDATE ON PAVA ROLL OUT

For your information I enclose copies of letters I have forwarded to the CEO Dr Jo Farrar and Prisons Minister Rory Stewart.

The delay in the roll out of PAVA is unacceptable. We have been patient and reasonable, yet the employer is hiding behind a legal challenge.

All Branch Officials please ensure you forward your updated contact details to Cronin house as soon as possible, to include a mobile phone number and private e mail address.

Unity is strength.

Yours sincerely

MARK FAIRHURST
National Chair
For and on behalf of the POA

ENCLOSURE



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Our Ref: IR-634-19 - MF

24th April 2019

Dear Dr Farrar

ROLL OUT OF PAVA INCAPACITANT SPRAY

On 9th October 2018 the Prisons Minister Rory Stewart announced that PAVA incapacitant spray would be issued to Prison Officers in order to 'keep them safe and maintain order.'

This statement was further confirmed in the House of Commons in January 2019. However, Lucy Frazer Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Ministry of Justice) on 14th February 2019, stated that 'to date since January 2019 no prisons have been issued with PAVA.'

Yesterday 23rd April 2019 in the House of Commons Prisons Minister Rory Stewart answered a question from Daniel Kawczynski (Con, Shrewsbury & Atcham) and stated that 'we are rolling out PAVA spray.'

The roll out of PAVA should have commenced in the closed adult male estate in January 2019. Most of these prisons are now key work compliant, with many having fully rolled out the OMiC model.

Some four months later the POA and its membership are still awaiting the roll out of PAVA as promised by both the Prisons Minister Rory Stewart and Directors in HMPPS. The only establishments to have PAVA remain the original four pilot sites.

On 15th April I forwarded a letter to Phil Copple seeking urgent clarification on the delay in the roll out of PAVA. I sought a response by 19th April. To date I am yet to receive a reply.

The latest violent incidents include staff being hospitalised at Feltham and a member of staff nearly losing his life at HMP Nottingham after being slashed across the throat. I would have envisaged that the roll out of PAVA would be a priority.

I am sure you would agree that as the trade union representing Prison Officers who are facing unprecedented levels of violence daily, our remit is to ensure their health and safety. The roll out of PAVA is a promise made to POA members that has yet to be delivered. We will ensure that our members health and safety is protected.

I am therefore informing you that the POA are giving you 28 days' notice to issue PAVA incapacitant spray to the first tranche of prisons that you have identified, namely, Liverpool, Brixton, Stoke Heath, Brinsford, Moorlands and Erlestoke.

The fact that you are facing a legal challenge gives no reason to delay the roll out of PAVA.

I would also reiterate our stance that the roll out of PAVA should not be further delayed and we would expect that all the male closed adult estate should be in possession of PAVA before the year end.

Discussions around the issue of PAVA to the open estate, female, IRC, juvenile, private sector and all other secure environments where our members work should continue.

I would urge you to meet with myself and the General Secretary Steve Gillan in order to remedy this unacceptable situation and would remind you that the safety of our members is non-negotiable.

We therefore expect the full roll out of PAVA in the first six prisons to be implemented by 22nd May 2019.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



MARK FAIRHURST
National Chair

Sent via email to; ceohmpps@justice.gov.uk

Dr Jo Farrar
Chief Executive
HMPPS



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Our Ref: IR-635-19 - MF

24th April 2019

Dear Prisons Minister

ROLL OUT OF PAVA INCAPACITANT SPRAY

In October 2018 you announced that PAVA incapacitant spray would be issued to Prison Officers in order to keep them safe and maintain order. You further reiterated this statement in the House of Commons in January 2019 when answering parliamentary questions, stating that PAVA, 'police-style' handcuffs and restraints would be introduced to ensure Prison Officers had the tools to do their job.

On 12th March you stated that HMPPS should be able to begin the full roll of PAVA in April. I can confirm that this is most definitely not the case and HMPPS are still floundering in their attempt to protect Prison Officers and prisoners by failing to roll out PAVA.

On 23rd April 2019 you again stated to the house that PAVA spray is being rolled out to Prison Officers.

Whilst I recognise and welcome your input and support, I feel that you are being misled by Directors in HMPPS.

To date, PAVA has not been issued to any prisons besides the four pilot sites. This clearly contradicts everything you are publicly stating. Rigid cuffs have not been issued at all in any prison and SPEAR training has not yet been delivered to staff.

I enclose for your information a letter I have forwarded to Dr Jo Farrar, the CEO of HMPPS, which gives 28 days' notice to roll out PAVA spray, as promised in October 2018.

I would also ask that you meet with myself and General Secretary Steve Gillan at your earliest convenience so we may reach agreement. I believe, on this issue, we have a common set of values and principles.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

MARK FAIRHURST
National Chair

Sent via email to: collette.reeve@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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Parliamentary under Secretary of State
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