



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

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POA Circular 97/2019

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

30th September 2019

Dear Colleagues

PENSION CHALLENGE UPDATE

Further to POA Circular 69/2019 dated 2nd July 2019, I am now in a position to update you on progress in relation to our challenge. I can understand the frustration from members at how long the process is taking but this is outside our control. These matters are now in the hands of the respective employment tribunals and indeed discussions with Cabinet Office.

The POA are not alone in this legal challenge there are other parties such as the FBU, Judges, Defence Police Federation and BMA. Potentially there could be others in the public sector as well.

In a recent discussion with our lawyers on this there are key points being discussed with Government lawyers which are confidential and it would not be wise to present them in public either on social media or indeed in a POA Circular.

The POA cases were “stayed” as you were previously informed in July 2019. I am pleased to inform you that our cases are now proceeding in the employment tribunal. The Central London Employment Tribunal has begun listing the claims it is dealing with for preliminary hearings, to start the process of dealing with remedy issues. These hearings will take place on a number of dates, the earliest being on 7th October and the latest, so far, being on 18th December 2019.

The purpose of the hearings is to identify the issues which are agreed by the parties and the issues which are in dispute, and to set a timetable for moving the disputed issues on to a final hearing. The outcome of the first preliminary hearing (which happens to be the Judges case) will give us a clear idea of the Government’s position for all claims.

Originally the majority of our claims were lodged in the Watford Tribunal but GLD after being approached by our lawyers have agreed the transfer to the Central London Tribunal as outlined previously and that is currently happening.

The Defence Police Federation are part of the Civil Service Scheme so their preliminary hearing is pretty much the same as ours so for now it is just a matter of waiting for developments to occur in those preliminary hearings.

As soon as we have more information we will promulgate that to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gillan', written in a cursive style.

STEVE GILLAN
General Secretary