**16 February 2015 Probation Pay Bulletin No. 6**

**PROBATION UNIONS MEET NOMS CEO OVER PAY DISPUTE**

On 5th February, UNISON, Napo and GMB met with NOMS chief executive Michael Spurr to make the case for the Justice Secretary to rethink his decision to offer probation staff a 0% pay rise this year.

This follows the vote by UNISON members to reject the current ‘offer’ by a margin of 96% and to take industrial action to seek to improve it. Napo’s NEC has agreed to work with UNISON on the pay campaign and has not ruled out industrial action if necessary.

At the meeting with Michael Spurr the three probation unions put on record their wish to see a negotiated settlement to the 2014 pay dispute. We made the following points in support of our argument:

* Probation staff are going through the most stressful and distressing time of most peoples’ careers as a result of Transforming Rehabilitation
* Offering these staff a 0% pay rise at this time, after all they have been through, is an absolute insult and speaks volumes of the regard with which staff are held by the Ministry of Justice
* We know that a 1% pay rise was put to Ministers last year to settle our pay claim, but that Ministers chose not to support this
* At the same time as Ministers apparently decided not to offer probation staff a 1% pay rise, they were signing off a 1% pay rise for CAFCASS staff
* Union members in the NPS and the CRCs cannot understand why the Justice Secretary signed off a 1% pay rise for their former colleagues in CAFCASS, but so far has refused to do so for them
* It is going to be very difficult for the unions to work with NOMS on the terms and conditions harmonisation agenda that the NPS wants while we are stuck in this pay dispute

Michael Spurr agreed to take the strength of feeling over the 2014 pay dispute back to the Justice Secretary. We hope to get a positive response soon.

UNISON and Napo will meet again to consider our options once we have received a response from Michael Spurr to our representations.

**JOIN UNISON**

Decent pay and conditions do not happen by accident and they cannot be taken for granted. The terms and conditions which you brought with you into the NPS, or a CRC, in June last year are worth defending; they are the result of many years of patient negotiation.

If you are not already a member of a trade union, UNISON encourages you to join us now to help defend your pay and conditions going into a very uncertain future.

**Call FREE on 0800 171 2193 or visit** [**www.joinunison.org**](http://www.joinunison.org)

