



AP NEWS

Bringing you the latest news about UNISON's work on behalf of members who work in Approved Premises

PAY PROTECTION FOR ALL APPROVED PREMISES STAFF

UNISON has written to NPS to ask for a guarantee that **any** AP member, whatever job they do, who suffers **any** financial detriment as a result of the implementation of E3 will receive three year's pay protection in line with the E3 Implementation Agreement.

This means three year's pay protection, without quibble, for members in the following circumstances who stand to lose regular income as a result of E3:

- Members who redeploy out of the AP into community or court teams
- Members who stay in the AP, but who are redeployed into a job on a lower pay band
- Members who are in scope of transfer to the proposed private night waking cover contract, but who redeploy into one of the new AP residential worker roles as an alternative to transfer

- Members who stand to lose any regular earnings as a result of moving onto the new AP rota
- Members who suffer a loss of income as a result of moving to the proposed new minimum hours sessional contract
- Members who lose regular earnings as a result of NPS extending the contract of private providers of bank hours for APs (see below for situation in North East Division)
- AP Members in any other situation who face a drop in earnings as result of E3

We hope that NPS understands just how strongly AP members feel about losing any income as a result of the implementation of E3.

NIGHT WAKING PRIVATISATION: UNLAWFUL?

UNISON has written to the NPS to put on record that we believe that the proposed privatisation of night waking cover in approved premises will breach competition law and must be halted immediately.

In simple terms, NPS is trying to bolt night waking services onto a big government facilities management (FM) contract which go beyond what is permitted under the Crown Commercial Service FM Framework Agreement (RM 1056).

This Framework sets out in detail what can be added to the FM contract, and does not include many of the proposed activities which NPS wants the private sector to deliver in APs.

NPS runs the risk that it will be challenged over its actions if it does not act immediately to remove the night waking cover privatisation proposals from the Crown Commercial Services FM Framework Agreement.

EXTENDING THE USE OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS IN APs

Even before the proposed privatisation of night waking cover has taken place, NPS is trying to extend the use of the private sector in APs in the North East Division. A number of years ago, the four former Probation Trusts in Yorkshire and Humberside let a contract for private providers to fill in for some shifts/hours in APs in the Region.

As far as UNISON is aware, only the former West Yorkshire CRC and the former Humberside CRC actually called down services from the contract. In South Yorkshire the contract actually collapsed early on, because the companies initially involved in providing the hours went bust, or decided not to carry on because they had underestimated the work.

But now NPS wants to revive the old contracts and give a new company the work.

UNISON's concerns are:

- Is this the thin end of the wedge which will see low paid private contract staff take over all the sessional hours currently worked in APs to save the NPS a few bob?
- If there is work in the Yorkshire and Humberside APs which cannot be covered by the rota or sessionals, why are the hours not being offered as overtime to NPS staff?
- If the old Yorkshire and Humberside contract is being revived, does NPS actually have the clearance to run this in the former Durham Tees Valley and former Northumbria Probation Trust areas, as they were never party to the contract in the first place?

JOIN UNISON

If you work for the NPS and are not yet in a trade union, you should think seriously about joining UNISON now. UNISON aims to defend the interests of our members who work in Approved Premises but if you are not a member you won't have the cover. Join us now to get protected.

Call our Freephone number 0800 171 2193 or join online at: www.joinunison.org

Reasons to join UNISON

EVERY member receives our full range of benefits and services, including



Legal help

for you at work and your family at home



Financial assistance

and debt advice in times of need



Helpline

open until midnight on weekdays and 4pm on Saturday



Accident and injury compensation

for you and your family



Exclusive member discounts

including money off cars and holidays