****

**NPS & CRC UPDATE 21 September 2018**

**UNISON RESPONDS TO CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF PROBATION**

UNISON has responded to the Ministry of Justice consultation paper ‘Strengthening Probation, Building Confidence’.

UNISON is calling for:

* An end to privatisation
* Probation Reunification
* The recreation of Local Probation Services
* Local democratic accountability for Probation

UNISON believes that the Probation Service stands at a crossroads. If the Ministry of Justice proposals in ‘Strengthening Probation, Building Confidence’ are followed they will lead to the end of an independent Probation Service in England and Wales and the winding up of the core values which have sustained Probation since its creation over 100 years ago.

Astonishingly, the Government wants to continue with the disastrous split in the Service between public and private provision, and plans reward the private companies for their failure to deliver Probation over the last four years with even bigger contracts in 2020.

Probation is far too important for us to allow this to happen.

**MEMBERS’ VIEWS**

Our consultation response has been put together to reflect the views of UNISON members working for the NPS and the CRCs, which were gathered in an on-line survey during August and September 2018. Here is what members said:

* 88% believe that TR has either partly or totally failed. (70% that it has totally failed)
* 88% want the CRCs brought back into public ownership
* 91% support Probation reunification
* 89% want the recreation of Local Probation Services to combine the work of the NPS and CRCs
* 91% believe that all CRC and NPS staff should transfer into one of the new Local Probation Services

 **THE UNISON RESPONSE**

UNISON wants an end to the failing private CRC contracts, an end to the artificial and damaging split in the Service, the recreation of Local Probation Services in the public sector and the return of Probation to local democratic control.

UNISON wants:

* The CRCs brought back into public ownership
* Probation Reunification
* The re-creation of Local Probation Services, as public sector bodies/employers
* All CRC and NPS work/staff in England to be transferred into the new Local Probation Services
* Local democratic accountability and funding for the new Local Probation Services
* The work of NPS Wales and the Wales CRC to be combined in a new unified, delivery organisation, or organisations, following an all Wales consultation on appropriate boundaries
* The reform of Her Majesty’s Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) to protect the integrity and independence of Probation and to devolve political control of Probation from Ministers to local level
* A guarantee of no compulsory redundancies for staff in NPS and CRCs and the protection of pay and conditions, including pensions, via a national collective agreement with the employers.
* Funding from the Treasury to provide for the reconstruction of Probation in recognition of the failure of the TR experiment, including money to reform probation pay and conditions.

**JOIN UNISON**

UNISON is campaigning to save an independent Probation Service in England and Wales and to protect our members’ jobs, pay and conditions and pensions in the process. The more members we have the more influence we will have in the negotiations which are to come over the future of the Service.

If you are not yet a trade union member in the NPS or the CRCs, join UNISON now to make your voice heard and help us to protect your profession, your job security and your pay and conditions.

To join:

* Speak to your local UNISON representative at your workplace
* Call 0800 171 2193
* Visit: [www.joinunison.org](http://www.joinunison.org)