



keep it public – **keep it local**

PROB/07/2013 **PROBATION MEMBERS' SURVEY RESULTS** 26 July 2013

99% OF UNISON MEMBERS VOTE TO REJECT GOVERNMENT REFORMS OF PROBATION

**85% OF MEMBERS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE INDUSTRIAL ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR
JOB, PAY AND CONDITIONS AND PENSIONS**

UNISON's recent survey of all Probation members has delivered a resounding vote of no confidence in Chris Grayling's plans to radically reform the Probation Service.

99% of those members responding to the postal survey, by the closing date of 25 July, were opposed to the Government's plans to break up the Probation Service and privatise most of its work.

85% of those responding were also prepared to take industrial action, up to and including strike action, if necessary to defend their job, their pay and conditions and their pensions.

These figures will send a very strong message to Chris Grayling and the Government that staff who work for the Probation Service are not prepared to stand by and see the Service that they have committed their working lives to, destroyed for ideological ends. The jobs that our members do, to protect communities and help reform offenders, is too precious and too important to be broken up in the way that the Justice Secretary is proposing.

But it is not too late for the Government to realise the error of its ways and work with the Service, rather than against it, to deliver sensible reforms that don't damage the vital work of Probation. UNISON therefore calls on Chris Grayling to respond to the strength of feeling of Probation staff and reconsider his proposals.

UNISON acknowledges the strong views which members have communicated in responding to the survey, and we thank all those that took part in making their views so clear.

In order to maintain the momentum of the survey

results, UNISON will now be taking the necessary measures over the summer period to ensure that, should we need to ballot members for industrial action later in the year, our membership records are up to date for any potential formal ballot. Branches and activists will receive advice in relation to this important work during August.

1412 members responded to the postal survey, by the closing date of 25 July. This represents a turnout of 32% of those members surveyed.

92% of Napo members, voting in their indicative ballot announced today, indicated that they were willing to support industrial action in defence of jobs and services; so both unions' membership are very much of one voice in relation to the threats facing Probation.



UNISON AND NAPO AGREE JOINT STATEMENT ON PROBATION REFORMS

UNISON and our sister union in Probation, Napo, have agreed a high level statement which sets out our joint commitment to work together on behalf of our members to defend a public Probation Service. We have always worked well together as sister unions, but the threats our members now face from the Government's dangerous reform agenda for Probation means that standing together is ever more important.

Here is the full text of our joint statement:

'This joint statement sets out Napo and UNISON's commitment to work together to defend the Probation Service and to protect our members' jobs, terms and conditions and pensions against the attacks set out in 'Transforming Rehabilitation'. We want to see the preservation of a local Probation Service, accountable to the communities it serves and one run for public good, rather than private profit. We are totally opposed to the Government's plans to break apart and privatise the Probation Service for which our members are proud to work.

We recognise that each union has its own individual aims and objectives, determined by our respective democratic decision-making, that we will continue to publish respective advice and guidance for our members and that we may need on occasion to speak and act independently.

Our starting position, however, is that we will work together to achieve mutually agreed outcomes in our campaign against 'Transforming Rehabilitation'. We have agreed to:

- Set up a joint union committee at national level to co-ordinate our aims and objectives in our campaign
- Consult each other on our campaign work and seek to work together wherever possible
- Share information and intelligence that assists our campaign
- Work together as a combined trade union side as members of the Transforming Rehabilitation Consultative Forum
- Develop common negotiating positions for all talks at the National Negotiating Council which concern 'Transforming Rehabilitation'
- Jointly support our branches and activists to respond to 'Transforming Rehabilitation' at Trust level
- Co-ordinate consultation on key issues with members.

Join UNISON!

If you are reading this as a non-union member in the Probation Service, this is a good time to be considering UNISON membership. The more members we have in the Service, the better we can defend your interests and those of your colleagues.

To join our campaign to Keep Probation Public – Keep Probation Local – JOIN UNISON TODAY

Speak to your **local UNISON representative**, call our freephone number **0800 171 2193** or visit the UNISON website 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