



keep it public – **keep it local**

PROB/10/2013

5 September 2013

## PROTEST AGAINST THE SELL OFF OF PROBATION

**\*\*19 SEPTEMBER 2013\*\***

UNISON is organising a protest to take place on 19 September for members to show their opposition to the Government's plans to sell off 70% of the Probation Service to the private sector.

### Why 19 September?

Because this is the day that Chris Grayling, Justice Secretary, is planning to put the advert for the probation sell-off into the Official Journal of the European Union. This is the first step that must be taken in any major privatisation.

Alongside our sister unions Napo and GMB, we are inviting members to take part in a lunchtime protest outside your office to show your opposition to the sell-off plans. UNISON will be producing placards for members to use as part of the protest and we are planning a joint union leaflet which you can give out to passers-by. More information will be available shortly about the protest, which will take place at lunchtime, so that you can attend in your own time. This is, therefore, not industrial action.

Advice and guidance will be sent to our Probation branches and activists in the coming week, including how to order the placards and how to make the strongest impact on the day, including contacting local media/MPs etc.

99% of UNISON members who voted in our recent survey told us that they were opposed to the Government's plans to break up and sell off Probation.

On 19 September there is a great opportunity to show your community just how much you care for the Service for which you work. We hope as many members as possible can join the protests to make it clear to Chris Grayling that opposition to his flawed and dangerous plans has not gone away.



# UPDATE ON NATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON STAFF TRANSFERS AND PROTECTIONS

The following developments have taken place during recent negotiations on a national agreement on staff transfer and protections at the National Negotiating Council (NNC). The proposed national agreement relates to the Government's proposal to split the workforce into a new National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies. UNISON is taking part in the negotiations without prejudice to our complete and on-going opposition to the Government's reform plans. As well as campaigning against the plans we have a duty to protect our members' interests as much as we can during the process, and this explains why we are in talks on your behalf.

Talks took place on Friday 30 August and Tuesday 4 August with a view to finalising proposals for the agreement, in time for the trade unions to consult members prior to a meeting of the NNC on 18 September. Negotiations were conducted in good faith, but it was not possible for the negotiators to conclude discussions in time to hit this timetable. This was acknowledged by both sides of the NNC.

In light of this, the following has been agreed:

- NNC talks will continue with the aim of producing completed proposals in time for these to be considered UNISON's National Probation Committee and Napo's NEC which are both meeting on 17 September
- On 18 September a special meeting of the NNC will meet to review the outcome of the negotiations and the draft agreement produced, as well as reflecting on the response of UNISON's National Probation Committee and Napo's NEC
- On 19 September, a 28 day consultation will commence to put the final proposal to UNISON and Napo members

UNISON's National Probation Committee will come to its own view on the final proposals and will communicate this to you during the 28 day consultation.

In light of these developments, it will now not be necessary for local trade unions to consult members on the negotiations in advance of 19 September. Further information will be provided by each trade union to its branches and activists following the meetings on 17 and 18 September.

## Join UNISON!

UNISON is working hard to protect your interests in the Transforming Rehabilitation process. If you are not already a trade union member in the Probation Service now is the time to think about joining us.

The more members we have, the stronger we can be on your behalf.

Speak to your local UNISON representative for details of how to join or:

Call our Freephone number **0800 171 2193** or join online at: [www.joinunison.org](http://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