**BRF01-2022**

21 January 2022

**To: Probation members (England and Wales)**

**No change to EDMs following latest Government announcement on COVID**

Dear Colleague

The start to the new year has seen Napo fully engaged in discussions on the major issues impacting on our members. This update also contains important news of upcoming events where members can discuss pay and meet with senior Probation leaders over the coming weeks.

**Covid**

This week’s Government announcement on the lifting of the Plan B restrictions across England and Wales was considered by the unions and Probation senior management yesterday. The key outcomes were as follows:

* Assurances that the current Exceptional Delivery Models in force across Probation Regions, (which are data led in terms of the impact of Covid and the continuing risks that it poses to staff and service users) will remain in place until further notice. Essentially, this means that there is no change to current delivery. Where attendance at a workplace is required to assist in the provision of face to face services this should continue to be managed in accordance with the existing processes such as rota systems and individual risk assessments.
* Mandatory testing for staff working in Approved Premises and Prisons will continue. Staff working in Probation Delivery Units will still be asked to undertake Lateral Flow Testing at least twice a week and consideration is being given to testing for staff and clients involved in Programmes. Any members who encounter difficulties securing Lateral Flow Test equipment should alert your line manager in the first instance.

More news will be issued about any changes to these arrangements in due course.

Meanwhile, Napo Health and Safety Representatives are reminded that an online forum has been organised for all Napo H&S Reps and Covid Reps working in Probation, on **Tuesday 25th January from 3pm-4.30pm**. This will be Chaired by Carole Doherty National Officer lead for H&S, and joined by Ian Richards GFTU, who is providing consultancy support to Napo. The first part of the meeting will include some very brief refresher training on how to escalate health & safety concerns followed by any questions. The latter part of the meeting will be given to any wider concerns, questions or issues that people have currently (questions by email to [ssuleman@napo.org.uk](mailto:ssuleman@napo.org.uk) in advance of the meeting will also be welcome). The link to access the meeting is detailed below:

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWNlZGZhMDYtZDQ2Ni00NmQ1LTgwNmMtOWFhNmRkZTk2NmQ2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2284ace365-7bf1-4fe6-9869-754067eb9133%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22cc63b72c-8a14-49c5-a65d-ede5573a2879%22%7d)

[Learn More](https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting) | [Meeting options](https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=cc63b72c-8a14-49c5-a65d-ede5573a2879&tenantId=84ace365-7bf1-4fe6-9869-754067eb9133&threadId=19_meeting_NWNlZGZhMDYtZDQ2Ni00NmQ1LTgwNmMtOWFhNmRkZTk2NmQ2@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US)

**News about Pay**

Following the registering of a Trade Dispute on Pay and Workloads to the employer just before the Christmas holiday, the Probation Unions and senior management are engaged in preliminary talks to identify the agenda for formal negotiations which will be taking place over the coming weeks. Members can find out more about the pay campaign and the unions objectives by joining an online seminar which is scheduled to take place on **Friday 11TH February** over the lunchtime period. Please look out for more details of the agenda and how you can easily join this event in the next week.

**Meet the Senior Leaders - a reminder**

Following the success and positive feedback from our Q&A session with Jim Barton, Director General Amy Rees has now agreed to hold a Q&A session with Napo members. The event will be held on **25th January 2022 from 12 noon to 1pm**. The Q&A session will again feature Jim Barton and will provide an opportunity for staff to hear an update on probation reunification and plans for the service going forward this year. Members will then be able to ask Amy and Jim questions either in person or via the chat function. At our last event around 80 members joined the meeting and there was a very frank and constructive discussion which members said they found very useful. We hope you will be able to join us next week details for accessing this event are shown below.

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWI4YWNkNGYtMmUwZS00YjMwLTk1ODktNjg3ZjQ4OWI4MGMx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2284ace365-7bf1-4fe6-9869-754067eb9133%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2214e0966f-c084-4dee-a771-35fe65b78c9c%22%7d)

[Learn More](https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting) | [Meeting options](https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=14e0966f-c084-4dee-a771-35fe65b78c9c&tenantId=84ace365-7bf1-4fe6-9869-754067eb9133&threadId=19_meeting_MWI4YWNkNGYtMmUwZS00YjMwLTk1ODktNjg3ZjQ4OWI4MGMx@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US)

**Ian Lawrence                 Katie Lomas**

**General Secretary         National Chair**