



**The Professional Trades Union for Prison,  
Correctional & Secure Psychiatric Workers**

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**POA Circular 11/2019**

Action		Information	
England/Wales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	England/Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scotland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Ireland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Hospitals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
IRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IRC	<input type="checkbox"/>

18th February 2019

Dear Colleagues

**CHECKING SMOKE DETECTORS AND REPORTING FAULTS**

It has been brought to the attention of the NEC that Officers are being asked to check whether smoke detectors are present and working either inside and/or outside of cells whilst conducting AFC's.

It is not the responsibility of Officers to check whether smoke detectors are working. This is a specialist piece of work and should be undertaken by the person responsible for checking that other Fire Fighting Equipment such as Fire Extinguishers are fit for purpose.

This task is not linked to AFC's within the NSF or LSS and as such will not be included in any profiled time allocated for this task. If staff are asked to observe whether they are present, profiles and the RMP should be revisited to ensure enough time is made available to conduct the work and report faults.

If Governors are insisting that Officers check the smoke detectors local committees must raise an SFC and enter into a dispute. However, if a member of staff discovers that a smoke detector is missing, they must report this immediately. They must ask for the cell to be taken out of commission until the smoke detector is replaced or fixed and the CNA and OP CAP reduced accordingly.

Local POA committees are asked to raise this issue with the SMT and ensure that adequate Safe Systems of Work are in place to check, maintain and replace faulty smoke detectors daily.

Please draw the contents of this circular to your members, the local POA H&S representative and raise it at the next SMT meeting.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

**JOE SIMPSON**  
Deputy General Secretary