



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

National Chair: Mark Fairhurst
General Secretary: Steve Gillan

Headquarters:
Cronin House
245 Church St.
Edmonton
London N9 9HW
t. 020 8803 0255
f. 020 8803 1761
e. general@poauk.org.uk
w. www.poauk.org.uk

North Regional Office
1 Linden House
Sardinia St.
Leeds
LS10 1BH
t. 01132 428833
f. 01132 429075
e. adminnro@poauk.org.uk

Northern Ireland
Castell House
116 Ballywalter Rd.
Millisle Co Down
BT22 2HS
t. 02891 861928
f. 02891 861839
e. adminni@poauk.org.uk

Scotland
21 Calder Rd.
Edinburgh
Scotland
EH11 3 PF
t. 0131 443 8105
f. 0131 444 0657
e. adminscot@poauk.org.uk

POA Circular 055/2019

Action		Information	
England/Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>	England/Wales	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	IRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6th June 2019

Dear Colleagues

135TH DURHAM MINERS GALA: SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2019

The Durham Miners Gala is celebrating its historic 135th year on the above date.

Traditionally, the colliery bands would march through their villages starting early in the morning and then make their way to Durham from all directions and, in the main, that tradition remains today. The main assembly point is the city centre Market Place and bands and banners start to march from there to the Racecourse from about 8.30am. Other assembly points are the Miners' Headquarters at Red Hill near the railway station and the New Inn on the west of the city.

The focal point of the Gala is the County Hotel at Old Elvet where the two legs of the procession converge. Here, Union Leaders, invited guests and local dignitaries greet the march from the hotel balcony and the bands pause to play their "party piece" before marching the short distance to the Racecourse where there is a platform for the speakers.

The procession can take three to four hours to pass the County Hotel due to the huge numbers attending and the frequent pauses at the Hotel. However, a wonderful atmosphere of street theatre is created there, making the occasion more of a trade union fiesta rather than a march.

On the Racecourse, the banners are strapped to the surrounding fences creating a colourful tapestry of working class history. On the riverside, there are rides for the children and stalls selling everything from books to merchandise. In the marquees, there are many exhibitions and a place where tea and sandwiches can be purchased.

At 1pm, the platform party with invited speakers arrives and the Chairman opens the meeting. After the speeches, four or five selected bands and banners march to the Cathedral for the Miners' Service.

The Durham Miners Gala is a fantastic celebratory weekend and I would encourage our members to attend if possible.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gillan', written in a cursive style.

STEVE GILLAN
General Secretary