



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

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## POA Circular 70/2019

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

10th July

Dear Colleagues

### NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

At the National Executive Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, the Executive endorsed the proposal and costings to conduct the Unions own Independent Assessment of Prevalence and Prison Staff exposure to risk to NPS within our prisons as approved by Conference.

The POA has engaged the services of Bournemouth University a leading organisation in this field.

The Principal Investigator of the assessment will be Dr Richard Paul CChem FRSC Principal Academic in Biological Chemistry, Bournemouth University.

The assessment will last for twelve months and will be conducted to ensure they have reliable data to evaluate the issues and risk. The assessment will involve taking samples of wastewater, head hair samples from staff and air samples from cells and houseblocks/wings. It will also obtain air samples using high tech on body air pumps to ensure the holistic approach meets the Universities objectives.

HMPPS have agreed to this assessment and the Executive will consider information available and select the two prisons which will be the basis of the assessment.

The University was asked to comment on the current evaluation and assessment being conducted by HMPPS and in their opinion this is perfectly satisfactory from a scientific approach.

The cost of this work to the Union will be £60,000.

Further information and updates will be provided and once the Executive has selected the two prisons, members of the Executive will visit the branch to ensure everyone is aware of the importance this has for the safety and well-being of our members.

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

Yours Sincerely

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

STEVE GILLAN  
General Secretary