



To: ALL PSU MEMBERS (Prisons & Immigration Centres)

6th December 2011

Dear Colleague,

Written Reports on Prisoners and/or Inmates

Members may have seen media reports regarding the above. A prisoner in Belmarsh High Security prison complained to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman that he was not allowed sight of unedited copies of reports (including the names of the officers whom had compiled the reports) relating to him. The Ombudsman has apparently agreed that the identity of the authors of such reports may only be withheld in exceptional circumstances and the Governor of HMP Belmarsh has, allegedly, agreed to this ruling.

The PSU believes that this sinister development presents a very serious risk to all prison officers and to their families. It is yet another example of naïve interference by over-liberalised, so-called penal experts – few of whom have ever been required to deal with recalcitrant, dangerous and often psychopathic prisoners.

Our advice to all members is as follows: **Write reports on prisoners only in circumstances where you have first obtained a written assurance from the head of your particular institution that your name will not be revealed to any prisoner or their families, associates or professional advisors, without an order from the Courts in each and every circumstance.**

The PSU will be inviting the Justice Minister to intervene and bring an end to this ludicrous, further erosion of safety for prison officers.

Kind regards,

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General Secretary.

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