

Novus/UCU Joint Statement, agreed under the auspices of ACAS 19th August 2021

Novus and UCU have, under the auspices of ACAS, held productive negotiations aimed at settling the current dispute concerning Health and Safety in prison education, and developing future productive working employment relations. Agreement has been reached on revised structures and processes for addressing H&S issues at all levels in a timely manner, with terms of reference for joint management/union fora, and a joint review of near-miss reports and of health and safety reporting processes.

Through these ACAS discussions previous matters of dispute have been addressed and agreement reached, including confirmation that UCU will not pursue any such matters under GDPR, clarification of UCU formal complaints procedures, and confirmation that any Novus/LTE investigations regarding previous issues raised are concluded and there will be no action against UCU branch officers or representatives.

Because of the positive progress made, UCU confirms that strike action planned for the last week of August 2021 has been suspended and will not now go ahead.

To ensure continuing productive working relations and the avoidance of future disputes, Novus and UCU have agreed to undertake, with the assistance of ACAS, a joint review of collective bargaining processes. Following conclusion of the dispute resolution process and through the period of review, Novus and UCU will seek to agree joint communications covering the new agreed terms of reference and any outcomes of the ACAS facilitated review.

