

Dear Charles Redshaw and Mike Harrison,

cc Justice Unions Parliamentary Group; Damian Hinds

We write to express our deep dissatisfaction with the chaos and uncertainty caused by the Ministry of Justice's failure to apply the CPI indexation to the Prison Education Framework contracts.

As confirmed by Damian Hinds in Parliament on 3 July 2023, the indexation is typically the CPI value published in March, which was 10.4% this year. This should have been automatically applied from 1 April 2023, allowing prison education providers to plan their budgets and enter pay negotiations with UCU for the 2023-2024 pay cycle.

However, a full quarter on, the indexation has still not been applied and no explanation has been provided about this extreme delay. We consider this not only a serious breach of contractual obligations but also a failure to consider the impact that the cost of living crisis and record-high inflation is having on professional frontline prison educators. Our work is essential to the rehabilitation of prisoners and the safety of society, carried out in some of the most challenging educational environments, but our pay [lags behind our counterparts](#) in college and secondary school education.

We call for the contractual 10.4% indexation to be applied immediately, thereby enabling pay negotiations to take place and frontline prison educators to receive a decent pay increase in line with inflation.

UCU Prison Education branches – Novus, Milton Keynes College, PeoplePlus, Weston