

The Retired Prison Governors

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association



NEWSLETTER SPECIAL BULLETIN

January 1995

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To: All Retired Members of the Prison Governors Association

Dear Colleague

I am writing to you to update you on several matters on which I know there is some interest. The Retired Governors Newsletter, our usual channel of communication, will not be published until Spring and I thought it important to provide you with this information as soon as possible.

1 **PGA Diaries**

A number of retired members have asked what has happened to their diaries. The simple answer is that we have been unable to provide all Retired members with diaries this year. For that I apologise. Let me explain what has happened

When we linked the Retired Governors Newsletter into the newly formed Prison Governors Association in 1988 we undertook to provide all associate (now retired) members with a free PGA diary. This was provided from PGA Funds not funds collected for the Retired Governors Newsletter. That is still the position. However, it is the intention of the PGA to provide our retired members with a diary each year. What went wrong in 94/95 was that we underestimated the number of diaries we would require. The original estimate was made in mid 1994, that estimate was too small. The problem was then exasperated by substantial growth in the number of retired members and further exasperated by a very large number of potential new PGA members as a result of promotion boards at the end of 1994. All this left us with a serious shortfall on diaries and it was not possible to send all our retired members diaries at the end of 1994. All I can do is to apologise and to undertake that we do better next time

2 **The Position of John Marriott**

It is clear that the escapes from Parkhurst at the beginning of the year and the action taken against John Marriott caused considerable reaction from many retired Governors. We have received a number of phone calls and letters and I know that a number have gone direct to John Marriott. I would, therefore, like on behalf of the Association and John Marriott to thank you for the expressions of support and to very much welcome that support. It is extremely helpful to all of us in the middle of an extremely difficult situation.

I am also attaching to this letter a resumé of events that has been circulated to the members of PGA. This will give retired members rather more background than has appeared in the press and will indicate the action that the PGA has been taking.

3 The Learmont Enquiry

Following the publication of the Woodcock Report into the escapes from Whitemoor in December 1994 the Home Secretary has set up yet another enquiry, this time headed by General Sir John Learmont into Prisons security generally. General Learmont appears to be taking a very broad approach to his terms of reference and we expect his report to be published in the first half of 1995.

As you can see we have been having a difficult time. We will report developments in the Spring edition of the Retired Governors Newsletter

Yours Sincerely

Brendan O'Friel

Editor, Retired Governors Newsletter

Encl.