



Public Service Association of NSW

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In reply please quote: DB:mb

10 March 2026

Mr Leon Taylor
Deputy Commissioner
Custodial Operations
Corrective Services NSW
Level 4 East
219-241 Cleveland Street
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

By email: leon.taylor@correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au

Dear Deputy Commissioner Taylor,

The Public Service Association of NSW (PSA) is aware that the recent increase in inmate numbers has resulted in the activation of Surge Beds across various Correctional Centres.

Our delegates tell us that, in most cases, the activation of surge beds has occurred without reasonable consultation. Furthermore, our delegates tell us that they have been told they will be directed if they don't agree.

As you would be aware, any temporary variation to inmate numbers must be subject to local consultation¹. Consultation means more than merely telling or directing staff to do something, and if a resolution cannot be reached, the disagreement be escalated through the grievance dispute resolution procedures of the award.

We further draw your attention to *Custodial Operations Policy and Procedure at 21.13.1.1*, that requires a correctional centre variation package (CCVP) to be created when there is an increase in inmate numbers and staffing and that staff should be consulted at least one week prior to a CCVP being submitted.

The practice of directing staff without adequate consultation has resulted in many locations accepting additional surge beds with agreed Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions without adequate consultation to accommodate surge bed increases.

¹ Schedule C Clause a(ii) of the *Crown Employees (Correctional Officers, Department of Communities and Justice- Corrective Services NSW) Award*

Following the variations to FTE, we are hearing that Governors are amending the agreed FTE numbers due to fluctuations in inmate numbers.

This has resulted in the Prison Officers' Vocational Branch (POVB) effectively putting out spot fires across the state, to prevent industrial action for conflicting outcomes through these agreed negotiations.

We ask that we are provided:

1. Each centre's updated Operational Management Plans for cohort and FTE changes where surge bed implementation has taken place.
2. An updated P28 should with an annexure at the bottom of the agreed FTE positions identified for the surge beds.
3. The costings for the associated surge beds for each individual centre be made available considering the current undertakings to recover \$170 Million dollars on overtime expenditure.

We request that the PSA / POVB be provided these documents within fourteen (14) days.

Yours sincerely,



David Bartle
for **STEWART LITTLE**
GENERAL SECRETARY