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CORRECTIVE SERVICES INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Members are advised that Corrective Services Officers, members of the Public Service Association (PSA), are taking industrial action. This industrial action is directly as a result of the safety concerns of their members due to staffing issues and overcrowding.

In the interest of public safety, police are deployed in prison facilities during industrial disputes. This role is to maintain security only — we must not undermine the effect of the action and members should refrain from performing any of the duties normally carried out by prison officers in correctional centres and court facilities, including cells in police stations and court complexes. Police should not transport prisoners from police cells to court/prison complexes where this is normally undertaken by corrective services staff.

A long-standing protocol between the Police Association and the PSA, under the auspices of the Unions NSW, stipulates the following:

- The primary function of police will be to maintain security
- Prisoners, except in the case of illness, will remain locked in cells
- Police will not exercise prisoners
- Police will not arrange for the showering of prisoners
- Police will not occupy towers for more than four hours in any shift
- Police will supervise the feeding of prisoners in cells
- Police will not undertake any other duty normally carried out by corrections staff apart from the vetting of persons entering and leaving the prison complex
- Executive Officers from Corrective Services will not direct police in the performance of their duties.

Normal police resources should not be depleted to maintain this additional security role. It is the expectation of the Association that additional police will be rostered (on overtime when required) to maintain all existing policing activities. The NSWPF have previously secured budget supplementation from Corrective Services for any additional costs incurred as a result of industrial action and we expect that this agreement will continue. Branch Officials are asked to liaise with their commanders to ensure First Response Agreements and other policing services are maintained. Your Association is meeting with the NSWPF Corporate Spokesperson for Custody and Corrections, Assistant Commissioner Kyle Stewart this afternoon and will provide members with updates as this dispute unfolds.

I am sure that all Police Association members offer their support to the PSA given the reasons for their action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Weber', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Scott Weber
President