



Retired Prison Governors Association

Graham Smith JP Chair

26th January 2021

Dear Member,

The committee of the RPGA are very much aware that these are very difficult times for everyone in the country as the Corona Virus continues its relentless spread through the population. However, we also recognise, that as an association which exists specifically for a group of retired people, many of our members not only fall into the age group of increased vulnerability to the virus, but also are far more likely to be isolated, or alone.

Due to the very nature of the work that qualified us all for membership of the association, we are aware that you, our members, are located in every part of the country, and indeed abroad. As a result, not many of us have any sort of daily contact with each other, and as a committee our ability to communicate with the membership on anything like a real-time basis is limited to the use of email. The problem here is that only approximately one third of our members are registered with us to receive emails, so our reach is limited.

Through various sources the committee have been made aware of some cases where members are finding the lockdown a struggle, either because of illness, loneliness or just that circumstances are getting on top of them. We cannot of course publicly share this information on an individual basis, and in cases that are brought to our attention we try to ensure that we provide appropriate advice and support, but this is always difficult when done at a distance and with someone that we may not know personally.

It is with this in mind that we have decided to ask you, our members to reach out to anyone that you know, whether they are members of the association or not, initially simply to say, is everything OK? So, with this in mind we are asking that if you personally know a retired colleague and have the means to make contact either by phone or email then please do so to just check that they are OK. It may take nothing more than that.

If they are not doing well, the fact that someone has taken the time to make contact may very well be the pick-me-up that they needed. On the other hand, it may also present an opportunity to identify someone who is not managing very well and to flag up the potential problem to someone who may be in a position to take appropriate action to provide support.

These are difficult times and never has it been truer that Every Little Helps.

Thank you and Stay Safe

RPGA Committee