

## Workshop Report – Public Sector Privatisation

This was the first time that the POA facilitated a workshop at the Stress Conference. We described how the privatisation, sorry competition, agenda was affecting the Criminal Justice system and the Prison Service in particular.

We concentrated on two specific areas, unsafe practices and the use of attendance / sickness policies and how they are being used to prepare the business for possible market testing. Attendees were divided into sub groups and shared their experiences with the rest of us.

A new working system was discussed which is called “Fair and Sustainable” and is seen as a way of challenging the reduced terms and conditions offered by the Private Sector whilst still protecting those currently employed.

The sheer unfairness of the current system was also discussed whereby Public Sector establishments are required to up scale their bids in order to “ensure a level playing field”

We hope we enlightened the attendees with the risks we face and warned them of the impending juggernaut which is coming their way in the near future.

Competition isn't about making better services; it's a race to the bottom and is one which is heavily weighted in favour of the Private Sector.

The same Private Sector which now employs many former Public Sector Managers (including the recently retired Director General) to advise and run their Profit making enterprises.

To its eternal shame, we lock up a higher proportion of our community in profit making establishments which are subsidiaries of Multi National Companies who ultimately are interested in one thing - PROFITS.

A famous proverb says: *“Crime will ultimately not benefit a person. No matter how tempting it may appear, crime doesn't pay.”* Unfortunately in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain it does pay for certain companies and handsomely.

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