

PUBLIC STATEMENT NIPGA COMMITTEE 27 JANUARY 1984

The NI Prison Governors Association wishes to express regret at the resignation of its member Mr Ernest Whittington OBE from the Governorship of HMP Maze and from the Prison Service.

In the course of his 34 years loyal and devoted service he has sought to carry out his duties even when it meant considerable risk to himself and his family eg in November 1976 his home was the subject of a terrorist bomb attack.

We are disappointed that he has had to resign from the Prison Service when he was within 7 months of retirement and feel that another position should have been made available to him for this period.

Having now had an opportunity to read the Hennessy Report, the NI Prison Governors Association feels it imprudent to make an ill prepared response in answer to its far-reaching findings and recommendations.

There are several issues which require careful consideration for example our members question if sufficient weight has been given to the report to political constraints on Governors in their day to day management of prisons.

A public statement will be made when the report has been fully evaluated.