

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - WESTERN CAPE

02-04-2020

Update: COVID-19 contravention

Various interventions have taken place between the PSA and the Department of Correctional Services nationally and three Directives were subsequently issued, with *Directive 1 of 2020*, dated 25 March 2020, being replaced with *Directive 1 of 2020*, dated 27 March 2020.

The PSA made several inputs on the Directives and some were accepted and included in *Directive 2 of 2020*. It is with dismay that the PSA in the Western Cape noted that Management in the Western Cape is failing to abide by its own directives. Members have informed the PSA of several management areas where duties are continuing as normal, the same as before the directives were issued. Examples are of educators who have not undergone basic training who are expected to continue working, despite the Directive specifically excluding them.

Most, if not all, management areas are continuing to have non-essential staff at work, “spans” go out and educators are teaching classes and social distancing is not being applied. *Para 3.1.3(c) of Directive 2 of 2020* stipulates that officials who do not fall within the essential services category and who have the tools to work from home, will be expected to be available to do work from home. There is no evidence that this has been done in the Western Cape.

The various management areas are attaching different interpretations to the Directives and there has been no clear instruction from the Regional Commissioner. It has furthermore been reported that matters are very tense in the centers, since offenders are unhappy about being screened every day. This causes a further concern for members as their circumstances are being exacerbated. Members at Community Corrections Centres are still expected to work without the necessary PPE. The Regional Commissioner has been engaged and the PSA is awaiting his response.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER