



SCOTTISH PUBLIC PENSIONS AGENCY

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Dear Sir or Madam

POLICE PENSIONS CIRCULAR No 2003/1

This circular provides information about the following pensions matters:

- A. Medical Appeals referees' fees and expenses**
- B. Medical Appeals guidance- Assessment of Degree of Disablement**
- C. Police Officers who are members of Volunteer Reserve Forces**

A. Medical Appeals – Referees' Fees and Expenses

1. In line with the Home Office, the maximum allowable fees and allowable expenses for medical referees undertaking medical appeals will be increased. With effect from 1 March 2003 a new limit of £735 (plus allowance for reasonable expenses) per medical is being introduced. This is in line with the recommendations of the BMA. From that date police authorities will also be able to approve reasonable expenses where these do not exceed a new limit of £185. Reasonable expenses may include secretarial costs, hire of room to conduct the appeal, travelling, and the cost of providing medical records and x-rays. This will be the final increase in fees prior to the introduction of the Regional Boards of Medical Referees.

B. Medical Appeals guidance – Assessment of Degree of Disablement

2. Where an application is made for an injury award immediately after medical retirement, the police salary earned when last serving will still be relevant without the need for adjustment for inflation. In cases where an injury award is made under Regulation B4, or reviewed under Regulation K4, some time after the individual has left the force, we advise against entering into

considerations such as whether the officer would have been promoted had he or she not been medically retired.

3. Therefore the assessment of degree of disablement should be based on actual police earnings prior to retirement. In the case of an after-appearing injury or a K2 review, the medical retirement may have occurred a considerable period in the past. In such cases the former police salary should be re-valued to current police pay levels to the equivalent point on the salary scale for the rank concerned. This will allow a fair comparison to be made with outside jobs and salaries at the time of assessment.

C Police Officers who are members of Volunteer Reserve Forces

4. Previous Police Pension Circulars 1997/4 and 2002/1 gave information regarding the position of officers who are called up as a result of being members of volunteer reserve forces. The information contained in these Circulars is still relevant.
5. Police officers called up for service as reservists will have their period spent abroad reckonable as pensionable service provided they continue to pay their 11% pension contributions in the normal manner under Regulation I8. The “Servicemen” provisions in Part I allow police officers who become permanently disabled for police duties to be paid the ill-health award which they would have received had the disablement occurred during a period of police service.
6. Where the disablement results from an injury on duty as a “serviceman” police authorities have discretion to make up the total pension payments received from the police and armed forces scheme to the level which would have been payable had the injury occurred on police duty. Similar arrangements apply to dependants benefits where the qualifying injury results in death. The Ministry of Defence will reimburse police authorities for the costs of employers pensions contributions of such officers whilst abroad.
7. If you have any enquiries regarding this circular please contact either myself or my colleague Dorothy Hamilton (01896 893224).

Yours faithfully



Jim Preston
Policy Manager