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Dear Colleague

POLICE PENSIONS CIRCULAR No 2006/2 THE NEW POLICE PENSIONS SCHEME (NPPS)

This circular should be brought to the immediate attention of force personnel officers, Human Resource Managers and the Pension Managers and administrators of the PPS. It adds to advice and guidance regarding the NPPS given under Circular 2006/1.

A. Member and Administrator guidance on unmarried partners for the NPPS

B. NPPS and the Disability Discrimination Act

Please find attached two sets of guidance on unmarried partner benefits under the NPPS one for scheme members and one for administrators. These come into effect on 6 April 2006.

You should make the guidance for members, with the declaration form, available on request from 6 April and arrange for it to be placed on the force intranet. **Note that the declaration form is in a generic format. You must include your return address in the space provided on the first page (or elsewhere on the form).** You may also wish to customise the form where appropriate to meet your own requirements. The template form asks for the officer's 'pay reference', but you may wish to use 'warrant number' as well or any other information your force may feel appropriate. You may also wish to amend the 'For police authority use' box at the end. The other parts of the form should not be amended. These remarks about customising the declaration form apply equally to the claim form in the guidance for administrators.

You should note in particular the transitional arrangements described on the first page of the guidance for members and in Section 1 of the guidance for administrators. Copies of this guidance were issued recently to pension administrators and were discussed at the last Police



Pension Administrators User Group meeting on 21st March. However, if you are unsure of how these arrangements are intended to work then please contact us. The current version of the declaration form will be replaced when the transitional arrangements come to an end at the end of the year and you should bear that this in mind when considering how many copies of the guidance to produce. Copies printed in-house from the Word version attached, according to demand, are acceptable.

This is an entirely new arrangement for the police service and both sets of guidance will be kept under review in the light of experience. Feedback is welcome on the guidance and how the new arrangements are working.

B. NPPS and the Disability Discrimination Act

Guidance on how the DDA affected police pensions administration was sent out to forces in accordance with Police Division Police Circular 19/2004 issued on 17 September 2004. This circular contained an annex advising administrators how new recruits and former officers returning to the police service or opt outs seeking to rejoin the pension scheme should be assessed in relation to allowing access to the ill-health benefits the scheme provides. Those who are identified as having a significantly higher risk of ill-health retirement are excluded from ill-health benefits and pay a lower contribution.

In determining whether or not an applicant is to be included or excluded from the ill-health benefits of the pension scheme, administrators use actuarial tables supplied with the original guidance. Below are the actuary tables that should be used when considering this question for the NPPS. Apart from applying the new actuary table the procedures under NPPS remains exactly the same as in the guidance. Also please note that any applicants for the NPPS who are excluded from the schemes' ill-health benefits should pay contributions at the rate of 6% of pay instead of 9.5%.

Duration to IH retirement				
Age	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	over 21 years
Under 20	Exclude	Exclude	Exclude	Include
20-24	Exclude	Exclude	Include	Include
25-29	Exclude	Exclude	Include	Include
30-34	Exclude	Exclude	Include	Include
35-39	Exclude	Include	Include	Include
40+	Include	Include	Include	Include

Yours sincerely



Jim Preston

