



NARPO PRESS RELEASE

Injury Award Reviews Latest Update.

Background

NARPO have for some time been highlighting the despicable treatment of some of their members who have been forced to retire from the police service early as a result of an injury on duty and have subsequently had their injury awards reduced to the lowest banding of award solely on account of them being 65 years or older.

This action has been carried out by Forces who have implemented the advice contained in Home Office Guidance and particularly Home Office Circular 46/2004 with what in our opinion appears to be a total disregard for those members' individual circumstances. Some NARPO members have been forced to sell their homes and move into smaller accommodation in an effort to maintain their standard of living.

NARPO have consistently maintained that the process of reviewing a former officer's injury award at age 65 or over should be no different than the process used when reviewing all other injury awards and that the review should be undertaken in accordance with the Regulations and relevant case law.

Latest

The National Association Of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) are encouraged by recent decisions made by the Police Medical Appeal Board in a number of cases where NARPO members over the age of 65 have had their Appeals against reduction upheld with a recommendation that the members awards be returned to their original level.

The successful Appeals to date have been in Northumbria, West Yorkshire and South Wales and NARPO now hope that these and other Forces who have implemented this draconian and heartless reduction of police pensioners pensions will take stock and consider their actions and start putting right the wrongs they have already done.

Eric Evans President of NARPO commented:

These recent decisions made by the PMAB are sensible and based on the Regulations and recent case law and offer us some hope that our members in this position will now be treated fairly and with respect.

It has taken some time to get to this position, but Police Authorities and Forces should now do the decent thing and treat their pensioners, particularly those who have been injured in the line of duty, with the dignity and respect they deserve. It is not too late for those Forces to right the terrible wrong they have done and at least give those police pensioners affected the opportunity to have their injury award reviewed fairly and no differently than others under the age of 65.

It is surely fundamentally wrong for anyone to be treated differently on account of their age and to automatically assume that anyone over the age of 65 cannot generate an income is completely ridiculous, particularly in an age where people are working longer and are actively being encouraged by Government to work longer.

I now call on the Prime Minister and the Home Office to honour their commitments and examine this issue as a matter of urgency with a view to making this a fair system for all.

I would also implore those Forces that have used the Home Office Circular as the basis for reduction to afford those already affected a reconsideration of their injury award, which will go some way to help restore police pensioners respect and faith in the Police Service they both served and trusted.

Notes to editor:

The West Yorkshire case involved an 83 year old world war two veteran who left the Police in 1973 after being viciously assaulted whilst on duty on two separate occasions. After some 36 years of not having the award reviewed or even having any contact from West Yorkshire Police they decided to reduce his injury award to the lowest band in accordance with the Home Office Circular having no regard whatsoever for his personal circumstances.