



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note the text of this request has been reproduced exactly as received.

FOI Reference number: FOI 19/2024

Date: 25 March 2024

Request:

This request follows on from FOI 05/2024 which sought the following information -

Please provide the current number of retrospective IHR and IOD applications currently awaiting consideration, specifically from officers who have resigned and therefore not currently awarded a pensionable income from the PSNI.

Please clarify statistical breakdown of those 57 individuals:

- 1. How many of the total were 'Required to Resign' from police service?
- 2. How many applicants (former officers) resigned for other reasons?
- 3. On what date was the most recent application from a 'resigned officer not in receipt of pensionable income' considered to completion?
- 4. Over what period has a sum of 57 applicants in this specific situation accumulated?
- 5. When was the oldest current application of an applicant in this specific situation submitted for consideration?
- 6. How many applications in this specific situation were processed to completion by the NIPB in 2023?
- 7. What specific NIPB policy refers to applications of this nature and states the process of such to follow different process or timelines than IHR applications?

Answer:

Please clarify statistical breakdown of those 57 individuals:

- 1. 2
- 2.55
- 3. 11/08/21
- 4. 11/08/21 05/02/24
- 5. 11/08/21
- 6. Nil
- 7. Please find enclosed IOD process map.

If you have queries about this request or the decision, please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should contact the Board's Chief Executive -

Via Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Or in writing at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board James House Block D 2 – 4 Cromac Avenue The Gasworks Belfast BT7 2JA

You should contact the Board within 40 working days of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following web link –

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

or in writing at:

Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114 Email: - <u>ni@ico.org.uk</u>

Please be advised that Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.



APPLICATION PROCESS UNDER THE PSNI & PSNI RESERVE (INJURY BENEFIT) REGULATIONS 2006

Application is received by the Northern Ireland Policing Board (the **Board**) from either a serving or retired officer in respect of an award under the *PSNI & PSNI Reserve* (*Injury Benefit*) *Regulations* 2006 (the **2006 Regulations**).



The case is allocated to a caseworker within Police Pensions and Injury Benefit Directorate (**PPIB**) who will progress the case in line with PPIB's internal processes prior to the scheduling of an appointment with a Selected Medical Practitioner (**SMP**).



SMP Assessment takes place during which the SMP produces a Report and Certificate and a decision on the medical evidence.





PPIB management include details of the case (anonymised) on the monthly SMP report which is issued for decision to the Board's Resources Committee.



Resources Committee consider the monthly SMP report prepared by Board Officials and make the decision in the case, in line with the responsibilities conferred on the Board by the 2006 Regulations



Board Officials communicate the Committee decision directly to PSNI HR (in respect of Serving Officer cases) or the applicant/applicant's representative (in retrospective cases). A copy of the SMP's Report and Certificate is provided to the applicant at this stage.



If an award has been approved Board Officials will contact PSNI Pensions Branch with confirmation of the Committee's decision. A copy of the SMP's Certificate will also be shared with PSNI Pensions Branch at this stage.

Notification of Appeal to the Independent Medical Referee (**IMR**) pursuant to *Regulation* 30 of the 2006 Regulations received by Board within 28 days after an applicant has received a copy of the final report and certificate of the SMP.



Statement of Grounds of Appeal to be forwarded to the Board by the applicant within a further 28 days of the initial Notification of Appeal.



Board Officials provide copies (in duplicate) of the following to the Department of Justice (**DOJ**):

10

11

15

- Grounds of appeal SMP Report & Certificate
- Case Referral bundle considered by the SMP



DOJ confirm what (if any) documents "determined as necessary" are to be supplied (in addition to those outlined at Stage above) prior to the appeal hearing. If no further documentation is requested then an appointment shall be arranged for appeal hearing.



IMR assessment is arranged and reasonable notice thereof is provided to both the applicant and the Board. Board Officials and the applicant will notify the DOJ if they intends to be represented at the hearing and/or submit written evidence.



IMR assessment takes place during which the IMR produces a Report and Certificate. expressing their "decision on any of the questions referred to the selected medical practitioner on which he disagrees with the latter's decision."



DOJ provide a copy of the IMR's Report & Certificate to the Board.

PPIB management include details of the case (anonymised) on the monthly IMR report which is issued for decision to the Board's Resources Committee.



Resources Committee consider the monthly IMR report prepared by Board Officials and make the decision in the case, in line with the responsibilities conferred on the Board by the 2006 Regulations



Board Officials communicate the Committee decision directly to PSNI HR (in respect of Serving Officer cases) or the applicant/applicant's representative (in retrospective cases). A copy of the IMR's Report and Certificate is provided to the applicant at this stage.



In instances whereby an SMP's banding has been altered or a refusal has been overturned Board Officials will contact PSNI Pensions Branch with confirmation of the Committee's decision. A copy of the IMR's Certificate will also be shared with PSNI Pensions Branch at this stage.

NOTES

- 1.1 Board Officials have prepared the attached flowchart being the process overview for <u>initial</u> <u>applications only</u> to the SMPs and IMRs.
- 1.2 The process relates to initial applications under the 2006 Regulations only and does not include applications made under the various police pension schemes.
- 1.3 This process does not relate to specific applications made by virtue of either *Regulation* 31(2) or *Regulation* 35 of the 2006 Regulations.

