



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 09/2019

Date: 12 June 2019

Request:

This correspondence is an application under the Freedom of Information Act. May I refer you to the NIPB Resources Committee minutes of 18 April 2019, recently published on the NIPB website.

I refer to Section 6.8 of the minutes relating to Police Administration Branch Delegated Authority Statistics (October 2016 - March 2019). I seek under the Freedom of Information Act a copy of the PAPER Board Officials presented which updated Members on the decisions taken by the Boards SMPs and the DOJs IMRs between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2019 which were processed by the Boards Police Administration Branch under delegated authority in respect of ILL Health and Injury on Duty applications received by the Board.

Answer:

The paper referred to at Section 6.8 of the NIPB Resources Committee minutes of 18 April 2019 is attached.

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 write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
Waterside Tower
31 Clarendon Road
Clarendon Dock
Belfast BT1 3BG

Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

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:-

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

Telephone: - 0303 1231114
Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

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.

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Thursday 18 April 2019

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|--------------------------|--|
| Paper Title: | Police Administration Branch Delegated Authority Statistics October 2016 – March 2019 |
| Agenda Ref No: | 6.3 |
| Lead Official: | ██████████, Head of Police Administration Branch |
| Purpose of Paper: | <p>(i) To ask Members to ratify the decisions taken by Selected Medical Practitioners (SMP) and processed by Police Administration Branch Officials under delegated authority in respect of Ill Health Retirement and Injury on Duty applications received by the Board.</p> <p>(ii) To inform Members of the decisions reached by Independent Medical Referees (IMR), appointed by the Department of Justice, in respect of appeals of SMP decisions.</p> |
| Considerations: | <p>(i) Resources –within existing staffing complement and skills.</p> <p>(ii) Equality – None.</p> <p>(iii) Publication Status of paper – This paper is likely to be disclosable under Freedom of Information.</p> <p>(iv) Related Corporate Plan/Business Plan measure – <u>Business Plan 2018/2019, Section 1.2.11</u>: To seek ratification of SMP and IMR decisions taken under delegation by Officials quarterly at Resources Committee. <u>Business Plan 2017/2018, Section 1.2.10</u>: To report on</p> |

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|---|--|
| | <p>IOD and Medical referral applications and user satisfaction with SMP at least quarterly to Resources Committee</p> <p><u>Business Plan 2016/2017, Section 1.3</u>: Ensuring the efficient and effective management of the injury on duty and medical retirement application process...reporting updates on progress twice yearly to Resources Committee.</p> |
| <p>Action Required by the Board / Committee: DECISION PAPER</p> | <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ratify</u> the decisions taken by the SMP and processed under delegated authority by Board Officials from 1 October 2016 – 31 March 2017, 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 and 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (Annex A), and • <u>Note</u> the decisions taken by IMR on appeal (Annex B) |

Background

The Board's obligations regarding decisions made in respect of Ill Health Pensions and Injury on Duty awards under the below listed schemes are overseen by the Resources Committee. The Committee's role and responsibilities in this regard are detailed in the Resources Committee Terms of Reference at:

Item 1.1 *"The NI Policing Board (the Board) has established a Resources Committee (the Committee) to support it in its responsibilities for all issues related to Finance, Human Resources (including Pensions and Injury on Duty Awards), Land and Property, Information Technology and Equality in the PSNI, and particularly those at Section 5.1 and 5.2." and,*

Item 5.2 *“The Committee will:.....Undertake the Board’s responsibilities under Police and Police Pension Regulations¹ and make recommendations to the Board in respect of pension forfeiture cases.”*

The suite of Regulations referred to are:

- The Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions Regulations 1988
- The PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006
- The Police Pension (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009
- The Police Pension Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Board’s Selected Medical Practitioners (**SMP**) conduct all medical assessments. Since October 2016 this function has been undertaken ‘in-house’ whereby SMPs are contracted directly by the Board and undertake all medical assessments (excluding in exceptional circumstances) at Waterside Tower.

If applicants are dissatisfied with the SMP’s decision they have the right of appeal to an Independent Medical Referee (**IMR**). IMRs are appointed by the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice has responsibility for administering the appeals process. Following receipt of a notice and grounds of appeal, Police Administration Branch officials prepare the appeal submission for this purpose. The appeal is thereafter transferred to the Department of Justice to administer.

Annexes

A summary of the decisions taken by SMPs and processed by Board officials under delegated authority is attached at **Annex A** in respect of the following time periods;

- For the period October 2016 – March 2017,
- For the Financial Year April 2017 – March 2018; and
- For the Financial Year 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

¹ Management of the day to day workload and casework in accordance with the suite of Regulations is delegated to Police Administration Branch which provides quarterly reports to include statistics and metrics for the Committee’s information.

A summary of the outcome of appeals to the IMR is attached at **Annex B** for the following time periods;

- For the period October 2016 – March 2017,
- For the Financial Year April 2017 – March 2018; and
- For the Financial Year 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

Action Required

Members are asked to;

1. **Ratify** the decisions taken by SMPs and processed by Police Administration Branch Officials under delegated authority in respect of Ill Health Retirement and Injury on Duty applications during the listed time periods; and
2. **Note** the decisions reached by IMRs in respect of all appeals of SMP decisions during the listed time periods.

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY SMPs AND PROCESSED BY OFFICIALS UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2016 – 31 MARCH 2017

| SERVING OFFICERS | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Ill Health Pension | 30 | 3 |
| Injury on Duty Award | 18 | 12 |
| Total Serving Officers | 48 | 15 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | | |
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Retrospective Ill Health Pension | 2 | 0 |
| Retrospective Injury on Duty Award | 14 | 15 |
| Deferred Pension due to ill health | 1 | 0 |
| Total Former Officers | 17 | 15 |

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2017 – 31 MARCH 2018

| SERVING OFFICERS | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Ill Health Pension | 71 | 1 |
| Injury on Duty Award | 44 | 26 |
| Total Serving Officers | 115 | 27 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | | |
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Retrospective Ill Health Pension | 0 | 1 |
| Retrospective Injury on Duty Award | 55 | 29 |
| Deferred Pension due to ill health | 5 | 1 |
| Total Former Officers | 60 | 31 |

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

| SERVING OFFICERS | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Ill Health Pension | 55 | 4 |
| Injury on Duty Award | 37 | 25 |
| Total Serving Officers | 92 | 29 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | | |
| Type of application | Approved | Refused |
| Retrospective Ill Health Pension | 3 | 1 |
| Retrospective Injury on Duty Award | 18 | 25 |
| Deferred Pension due to ill health | 2 | 2 |
| Total Former Officers | 23 | 28 |

OUTCOME OF APPEALS TO THE INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REFEREE

FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2016 – 31 MARCH 2017

| SERVING OFFICERS | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 1 |
| Overturned | 5 |
| Upheld | 1 |
| Total Serving Officers | 7 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | |
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 5 |
| Overturned | 18 |
| Upheld | 10 |
| Total Former Officers | 33 |

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2017 – 31 MARCH 2018

| SERVING OFFICERS | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 1 |
| Overturned | 1 |
| Upheld | 4 |
| Total Serving Officers | 6 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | |
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 1 |
| Overturned | 53 |
| Upheld | 42 |
| Total Former Officers | 96 |

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

| SERVING OFFICERS | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 0 |
| Overtured | 1 |
| Upheld | 0 |
| Total Serving Officer | 1 |
| FORMER OFFICERS | |
| Type of application | Appeals |
| Withdrawn | 1 |
| Overtured | 72 |
| Upheld | 60 |
| Total Former Officer | 133 |