



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number: FOI 36/2013**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013**

- Request:**
- A How many IOD pensioners were wrongly reduced in Bandings and did not appeal (For a multitude of varying reasons)
  - B Could the reduction in Bandings be attributable to any particular SMP.
  - C What were the instructions/advice given by NIPB go the SMP e.g. was it lawful, considered and within the confines of the Regulations
  - D What cogent steps are being taken by NIPB with a view to extrapolating and carefully analysing the diverse opinion between the SMP and IMR. Indeed will the SMP(s) be made aware of the outcome of the appeals as this matter needs to be brought to a medical and methodical conclusion
  - E What arrangements, if any, are planned, contemplated or considered to address this problem, please.

- Answer:**
- A. This information does not exist. A reduction in banding after review by the Board's Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) may be reversed should the individual concerned successfully appeal that decision.
  - B. Medical assessments can be carried out by one of four different doctors who are all employed by the Board's SMP, any of whom could recommend a reduction in banding depending upon the circumstances of the individual case being considered at a particular point in time.
  - C. Information in relation to medical reviews is contained within the Board's Guidance Booklet. As you are aware, this document is currently under review.
  - D.. A Working Group comprised of representatives of the Northern Ireland Retired Police Officers Association, the Northern Ireland Disabled Police Officers Association, the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, the PSNI, the Department of Justice and the Board has been set up, which will consider the policy and procedure currently followed in relation to reviews of IOD awards and make recommendations to the Department for consideration. It is anticipated that the review group will make its recommendations by the end of August 2013.
  - E. Please see answer at D. above.

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](mailto: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:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
3rd Floor  
12 Cromac Place  
Gasworks  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB.

Telephone: - 02890 269 380  
Email: - [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

Please be advised that all Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information will be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk).

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