

Barney McGahan
Interim Chief Executive

Date: 30 April 2015

Dear Stakeholder

I write further to the (former) Chief Executive's letter dated 19 December 2014.

The Board will shortly be consulting with stakeholders on a revised policy on the assessment method to be adopted by medical practitioners when carrying out reviews of an individual's degree of disablement i.e. their banding.

In line with the recommendation made by Mr David Scoffield QC in his report the Board has amended its policy on the assessment method to be adopted in order to simplify the process for all concerned.

The medical practitioner will now be asked to provide their best judgement on the impact of an officer/former officer's disablement on their earning capacity, which will be reflected in the determination of which banding (slight, minor, major or very severe) is most appropriate.

Following consultation and, if applicable, amendment of the policy it is the Board's intention that the new policy will be used by medical practitioners in all future assessments.

In the first instance the Board will be seeking to hold reconsiderations of all affected cases where a former officer over 65 years of age was reduced on review, to address Recommendation 19 of the Scoffield report.

The Board will be writing out to the affected former officers to seek their agreement to the reconsideration, in accordance with Regulation 32(1) of the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.

With respect to reviews where the former officer's banding was increased or stayed the same, the Board does not intend to carry out a reassessment using the new policy. The Injury on Duty Award payment in these circumstances will remain unaffected. A letter will be issued to former officers to provide notification.

Please note there may be a delay in writing out to some individuals whose up to date contact details will need to be confirmed with PSNI before letters are issued.

As recommended by Mr Scoffield any cases which were marked "permanent" or "no further review" will not be called for review (Recommendation 18 refers). The Board has also revised its policy on the interval for reviews, to take account of Recommendation 11. In future, review dates will be determined on the advice of the medical practitioners. We will write out in all cases where it is intended a review will be undertaken in due course.

Northern Ireland Policing Board

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If an individual wishes for their Injury on Duty Award to be reviewed it remains open for a request to be made with the Board at any stage. However, please be advised that, on review an individual's banding could be decreased as well as increased, depending on the medical practitioners assessment of the degree of disablement in each case.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Justice in relation to addressing the remaining recommendations contained within the Scofield report. A further update will be published on the Board's website in respect of these issues as matters develop.

Yours sincerely

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Interim Chief Executive

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