

## **REPORT TO THE PNB BY THE POLICE PENSIONS REVIEW WORKING PARTY**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This paper asks the PNB to note progress on a number of issues relating to the Police Pension Scheme 1987 (1988 in Northern Ireland) (PPS) and the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 (NPPS) since the last report of July 2011.

### **2. Meetings held and arranged**

- 2.1 A meeting of the Working Party was held on 28 September. The next meeting has been arranged for 6 December. A meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) was held on 15 September.

### **3. Part-time officers and pensionable pay**

- 3.1 Discussion on this issue is led in the Gender Equality and Work/Life Balance Working Party (GEWLB WP). Discussions have now resumed in the GEWLB WP following the conclusion of legal proceedings relating to this issue which may require the Pensions Working Party to consider any specific pension issues.

### **4. Injury awards review**

- 4.1 The Home Office is considering the comments on both the draft regulations to implement the package of changes to the injury benefit scheme and draft revised guidance on reviews of injury awards. Revised drafts of both the guidance and the regulations will be issued at the earliest opportunity.

### **5. Adult survivor pensions and cohabitation**

- 5.1 The Home Office had circulated the latest version of draft guidance on cohabitation, noting that it only includes minor revisions reflecting comments from interested parties outside the PNB and that there is currently no firm timescale for taking this forward or issuing new guidance. The Staff Side are considering this latest draft.

### **6. Pension forfeiture**

- 6.1 The Home Office is considering the Staff Side's letter of 18 August and will respond in due course.

### **7. Valuation of the police pension schemes**

- 7.1 The valuations of pension schemes across the public services remain suspended in light of the Hutton report and the Government's review of the discount rate. The Home Office will inform working party members when the valuation resumes and is exploring whether it is possible to

make available some of the relevant valuation data to inform PNB discussion on pension reform.

## **8. Independent Public Service Pensions Commission**

- 8.1 At the TWG on 15 September it was agreed that the Home Office would write to both Sides with more information on the timing of proposals on longer term changes to police pensions.

## **9. Police pension contributions**

- 9.1 The Home Secretary wrote to PNB with the formal proposal on 29 July. This was discussed in a meeting of the Police Pensions TWG on 15 September. The Home Office has confirmed that the Staff Side's request of an extension to the consultation period has been agreed – the deadline for submissions is now 27 October.

## **10. Opting out of the PPS at 30 years' service**

- 10.1 The Staff Side is still receiving indications that a number of officers are considering opting out of the PPS after having completed 30 years' pensionable service. Staff Side continues to have concerns about the consistency and accuracy of advice provided by administrators on this matter and the Home Office has agreed to consider any detail or examples which the Staff Side might provide and assess whether there is need for any clarification of the issues raised.

## **11. Career breaks/Pensions earnings cap**

- 11.1 The Home Office has prepared a draft note on this issue, detailing those affected by the earnings cap, which has been circulated to the Working Party.

October 2011