



Survivor Pensions – Police Pensions Regulations 1987

Introduction

In recognition of the risks faced as an everyday part of policing, the Home Secretary announced in the House of Commons on 12 October 2015 that the 1987 Police Pension Scheme will be amended to allow widows, widowers and civil partners of police officers who have died on duty who qualify for a survivor pension after 1 April 2015 to continue to receive their survivor benefits for life regardless of remarriage, civil partnership or cohabitation in the future.

Questions and Answers

Will this apply to all widows, widowers and civil partners?

This amendment applies to widows, widowers and civil partners of police officers who die or died on duty and who remarried, formed a civil partnership or began cohabitation on or after 1 April 2015.

Will these pensions be reinstated for those who remarried before 1 April 2015?

In keeping with the policy applied as part of the Armed Forces' changes announced in 2014, any pensions already surrendered before 1 April 2015 will not be reinstated.

What does 'on duty' include?

On duty will include journeys to and from work.

What happens if I divorce and remarry in the future?

Once a marriage, civil partnership or cohabitation has ceased, the widow, widower or civil partner can apply to the Police Pension Authority to have the pension reinstated. If the widow, widower or civil partner remarries, forms a civil partnership or cohabits after 1 April 2015 and provided that the police officer died on duty, their survivor pension will be awarded for life.

Have the rules also changed for those in receipt of a special or augmented award under the Police (Injury) Benefit Regulations 2006?

Yes. The amendments made to the Police Pensions Regulations 1987 are also reflected in the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.

When will these Regulations come into force?

The Regulations were laid before Parliament on 18 December 2015 and will come into force on 18 January 2015.

Who has been consulted regarding these amendments?

The Home Office consulted with the Police Advisory Board of England and Wales (PABEW) and sought the views of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Association for Northern Ireland.

Who should I approach for more information on my entitlements as an officer/survivor in regards to pension entitlements?

If you would like to discuss your pension options in further detail I would suggest contacting your police pension administrator who should be able to provide further assistance. You can find a list of police pension administrators and their contact details at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403860/2015_02_12_Police_Pension_Administrator_Contacts_England_and_Wales.pdf