

AN INEQUALITY WITHIN A *UNITED* KINGDOM

There is a glaring inequality in the treatment of Police Widows throughout the United Kingdom.

In Northern Ireland - all survivors continue to receive their widows or widowers pension regardless of their current relationship status and regardless of how and when their spouse died.

In England/Wales - survivors whose spouses died on duty - or as a result of an injury on duty - continue to receive their pension should they remarry/cohabit but only if they remarried/cohabited on or after 1 April 2015. If they remarried or cohabited before 1 April 2015, they are not eligible for the pension to be reinstated, even if their former spouse died on or as a result of injuries sustained on duty. Anyone whose spouse didn't die on duty or as a result of an injury on duty and subsequently remarries or cohabits does not continue to receive their pension.

In Scotland - survivors whose spouse died on duty - or as a result of injury on duty continue to receive their pension even if they are remarried or cohabiting, from 1 October 2015, regardless of the date of their remarriage or cohabitation. Anyone whose spouse didn't die on

duty or as a result of an injury on duty and subsequently remarries or cohabits does not continue to receive their pension.

This in our view is a ridiculous and untenable situation within the United Kingdom whereby police widows and widowers are treated differently just because of:

- where their deceased spouse served as a police officer.
- the nature of the death of their spouse.
- The date of their remarriage or cohabitation.

All police widows have in our view the right to be treated the same no matter where their spouse served, the nature of their death or the date of their remarriage or cohabitation.

We call on Government to right this unfair and immoral wrong and give police widows and widowers dignity in their later years without having to make the stark choice of a loving partnership or a sound financial later life after the death of their loved one.