

Up-rating of DWP Benefits – Effect on Injury Pensions from April 2010

The purpose of this note is to give guidance on managing changes to the level of DWP benefits this year as a consequence of the fact that pensions in payment under the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 are not being increased.

Under paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 to the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 the amount of an injury pension in respect of any week must be reduced by the amount of certain DWP benefits to which the pensioner is entitled in respect of the same week.

Injury pensions are subject to increases under the annual Pensions Increase (PI) order. DWP benefits are normally similarly up-rated with the effect that the increased reduction due to the up-rating of DWP benefits and increases to injury pensions are in balance. This means that the net injury pension payable can be increased in line with PI without further adjustment.

As you know, we circulated earlier this year the Government's announcement that there would be no increase to police pensions from April 2010. However, the DWP Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2010 includes changes (in the majority of cases, increases) to some benefits. **This means that the net amount of some injury pensions in payment will need to be adjusted.**

Police authorities will therefore need to check injury pensions in payment to determine whether adjustment is necessary from April 2010 due to changes to DWP benefits payable to their pensioners.

A link to the latest DWP Order and details of benefits rates for 2010 are given below:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111491317_en_1

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/benefitrates2010.pdf>