



Home Office

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02 APR 2014

Mr Clint Elliott  
Chief Executive  
National Association of Retired Police Officers  
38 Bond Street  
Wakefield  
WF1 2QP

Dear Mr Elliott,

Thank you for your letter, addressed to Peter Spreadbury, of 12 March 2014. Your letter has been passed to me as I have responsibility for police injury benefit policy.

You write regarding the relationship between Police Injury Awards and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Specifically, you asked for the Home Office to outline its position regarding whether the ESA is deductible from injury pensions. This is an issue that we are currently considering with legal advisors and as such I cannot provide a definitive response at this time.

I can confirm that the Home Office has not communicated a position or advice to forces, but we have stated what course of action we plan to follow. In principle, we believe it would be appropriate to change both the police pension and injury benefit regulations to make the ESA deductible. However, forces must comply with the relevant regulations as they stand at this time; we would advise forces to do so, and would not direct them to any other interpretation.

You will appreciate that while we consider the legal position we are unable to confirm whether future changes would be retrospective. I would like to reassure you though that I understand your concerns and that we are taking positive steps to resolve this matter.

I hope that this clarifies the Home Office position on this matter and I am happy to discuss this matter further if that would be of assistance.

Sincerely,

**Joe Whittle**

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