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John Randall
Independent Chair
Police Negotiating Board
(by email only)

03 March 2014

Dear John,

I am writing regarding the 30+PLUS pension arrangement which expired on 31/3/2013.

The original 30+ arrangement was introduced over 10 years ago as a tool to assist forces with succession planning and retaining officers with key skills or experience beyond pensionable age. The NPIA reviewed 30+ in 2008 and recommended that it should be discontinued. Following consultation with the PNB, where concerns were raised surrounding retention of officers with certain skills or experience to police the Olympics, the 30+PLUS arrangement was put in place until March 2013.

A survey of police forces in 2013 found that there was limited use and support for the arrangements, with only four of the 37 forces who responded positively supporting the need for access to such arrangements in future. It also seems inappropriate to introduce a new arrangement which allows officers to retire and then be re-engaged without facing open competition. Ministers have therefore decided not to renew or extend these arrangements for the future.

Any officers currently engaged under the 30+PLUS arrangements will remain unaffected, but the arrangement is not open to new applicants. Any applications which have been accepted since 31/3/2013 but have not yet started should not proceed. Further confirmation of this will be issued to forces in due course.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further if that would be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Joe Whittle

Cc: Bill Blase
Ian Rennie
Sarah Messenger