

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Dr Read,

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND – PAY REMIT LETTER

Thank you for your 2016 report and recommendations for the senior police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Processes are underway to apply the changes recommended, in full.

I am pleased to provide the Senior Salaries Review Body with my remit letter for this year to allow the review of the remuneration for senior police officers serving in the PSNI.

Public Sector Pay Policy

The Northern Ireland Executive has not yet agreed pay policy for the public sector for Northern Ireland for 2017/18. However, in general terms it has endorsed the principle of adherence to the UK Government's public sector pay policies and public sector pay growth limits.

I am aware that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury wrote to the pay review bodies' chairmen on 13 July. In the absence of a settled policy for Northern Ireland, I would suggest that the Body operates within the parameters set out therein, noting that these may be subject to further restraint. The Executive's position will be provided in evidential submissions as the position becomes clearer.

For 2017/18 review

I would welcome the views of the Review Body on:

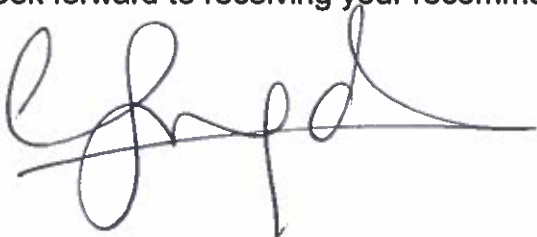
- the application of any pay award for senior police officers, within the guidelines set by Treasury;
- whether any increase should be applied to the Northern Ireland Transitional Allowance; and
- initial thoughts in respect of including the PSNI in the wider review of senior officers' pay to be carried out for England and Wales.

Parties in Northern Ireland are keen to ensure that the application of any award does not hinder the ability of senior officers to enter and leave the PSNI, and that pay and allowances are not a barrier to appointment at the most senior ranks. On this basis it would be helpful if a consistent approach is adopted on key aspects of pay across all ranks, as well as with England and Wales.

I am conscious that consideration will also have to be given to the ongoing reforms being taken forward in the College of Policing, to ascertain what impact any further developments might have on policing in Northern Ireland, particularly in light of the leadership review. I ask that you consider these ongoing areas of work in the context of policing in Northern Ireland when reviewing remuneration.

I trust that this letter is helpful to the Body as you undertake this year's assessments. I can confirm that input has been sought from the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the PSNI on matters they would wish to see referred to you, all of which have been incorporated in this remit letter.

I look forward to receiving your recommendations in due course.



CLAIRE SUGDEN MLA
Minister of Justice