

**EXPLANATORY MEMORDANDUM TO THE**  
**Police Service of Northern Ireland Pensions**  
**(Amendment) Regulations**  
**SR 2012 No. 64**

1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Justice to accompany the Statutory Rule (detailed above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by sections 25, 26 and 72 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, read with Articles 14 and 15 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. **Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to apply an increase to pension contributions made by police officers for the 2012/2013 year to police pension schemes with effect from 1 April 2012.
- 2.2. These regulations also makes consequential Amendments to the Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions (Purchase of Increased Benefits) (Amendment) Regulations 1988 in order to change the limit on the aggregate contributions payable by a member and adjust the contribution rates of those ineligible for a pension award payable on the ground of permanent disablement under regulation G2(1) of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions Regulations 1988.

3. **Background**

- 3.1. The Westminster Government has decided to increase pension contributions for public sector workers from April 2012 and to raise £2.8 billion by this means across the United Kingdom by April 2015. This equates to an average increase in pension contributions of 3.2% of salary.
- 3.2. At its meeting of 22 September 2011, the Executive, having given consideration to the Westminster Government proposals, agreed with the Finance Minister's recommendations with respect to Public Service Pensions.
- 3.3. The Department has prepared regulations which detail how the increases to police pension contribution rates will be structured with the introduction of a tiered approach, over a one year period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 As required by sections 25(8) and 26(6) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, the Department of Justice has consulted the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Association for Northern Ireland. The consultation was also extended to the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- 4.2 In accordance with section 72(2A) of that Act, the Department of Justice has obtained the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel.
- 4.3 The draft regulations were issued for consultation from 21 November 2011 to 16 December 2011. The level of public interest in the introduction of these amendments is low. There was no public consultation process and no media coverage.

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1 Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and no equality issues have been identified by the Department.

#### **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1 The Department does not consider that there is a need for a regulatory impact assessment for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

#### **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The impact on the public sector is limited to the area of police pensions provision. It is not anticipated to result in any costs.

#### **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 8.1 The proposed legislation is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

#### **9. European Implications**

- 9.1 Not applicable.

#### **10 Parity or Replicatory measure**

- 10.1 Similar legislation is being introduced on 1 April 2012 simultaneously in Scotland, England and Wales.

#### **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1 Not applicable