



Date: 11/04/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/011941/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/011941/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The 1987 Police Pension legacy scheme makes references to the enhancement available in the scheme when an officer is ill health retired on medical grounds but needs some clarity as it does not expand sufficiently to provide worked examples.

Can you provide the simple formula used by your forces pensions branch showing how the 1/60th's are established for this hypothetical officer below:

Can you confirm if a police officer has 25yrs 6 months total pensionable service composed of 23 years 6months in the 1987 scheme and 2 years in the CARE 2015 scheme and is subsequently approved for ill health retirement on medical grounds is the calculation applied in the following order sequence?

Can you confirm as this officer has more than 13 years service is the 7/60th's applied first, thus establishing the baseline due to being medically retired?

Can you confirm if the next stage is to add 20/60th's for the next twenty years pensionable service making a total of 27/60?

Can you confirm that the next stage will be 2/60th will be added for each of the subsequent years between years 20 & 30 as these are double accrual which makes the 3 yrs 6 mths equivalent to 7/60th?

Can you confirm that the final overall total of 34/60th's is the correct answer to this scenario?

Is this the correct computational method that would be applied?

Can you confirm that all 7/60th's enhancement available would be applied in full as reference is made within the 1987 guide that the resultant pension must not be greater than the age retirement pension that could be achieved at the normal pension age of 55 or age 60 in the case of inspector or above.

Is this statement now obsolete as the Compulsory Retirement Ages (CRA) appears to be referencing where they used to be age 55 for Constable & Sergeants with that for inspectors being 60 but now for all federated ranks the CRA in the 1987 Scheme was removed in 2006 and is now defined to be 60 years old?

Can you clarify if there would be any adverse consequences if the police officer in the above scenarios was an inspector being ill health retired on medical grounds?

MERGED REQUEST

1. Can you confirm what the current compulsory retirement age categories contained within the police 1987 legacy pension scheme are now which would be applied to any Police officer retiring on an ordinary pension having completed either 25 or 30 years pensionable service in 2024 and beyond?

2. Can you confirm that the previous Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) of 55 yrs old for Constable & Sergeant ranks, 60 years old for Inspector/ Chief Inspector rank and finally for senior officers had a CRA of 65yrs old - that these ages are no longer relevant and do not apply to any officer retiring now?

3. Can you outline if and how these current compulsory retirement ages answered in Question 1. are relevant (detrimental) when a police officer of either Constable, Sergeant or Inspector rank is medically retired through the ill health retirement process before they have reached the CRA for their rank?

Result of Searches

Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action, or to answer hypothetical questions - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

As such, within the spirit of the Act, only questions 1 and 2 qualify as a request for information held.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested as exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information requested in question two of your request is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means.**

Information relating to retirement ages on The Police Pension Scheme 1987 is available in the public domain from the XPS Administration Police Pension Scheme 1987 Members' Guide, available here [pps-1987-guide.pdf \(myownpension.co.uk\)](https://myownpension.co.uk/pps-1987-guide.pdf).