

Date: 06/02/2024

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/011918/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/011918/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Can you confirm the current position with the 1987 legacy pension scheme which had a Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) of 55 yrs old for Constable and Sergeant ranks and for those of Inspector rank and above being 60 yrs old. Similarly, senior officers had a CRA of 65yrs old.***
- 2. Does the Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) associated with the Constable & Sergeant ranks (55) and the inspector ranks (60) and above within the legacy 1987 pension scheme still apply now in 2024 and beyond when officers who are still members of those schemes come to retire with an ordinary pension?***
- 3. How would the enhancement available under the 1987 legacy scheme be applied in practice to a hypothetical 52 yr old police inspector (imaginary DOB 30/03/72) on their top pay scale who has a total of 23 1/2 years pensionable in the 1987 legacy scheme who didn't receive transitional protection and moved onto the CARE scheme in April 2022 if this officer was ill health retired on medical grounds by their local Police Authority in March 2024 assuming this had been approved by the Selected Medical Practitioner and allocated a low tier award under the 2015 scheme?***
- 4. Can you provide a working example of the calculations used to compute the figures for the inspector above that would ultimately be presented to the officer who would elect a choice based on membership of two different schemes and the ill health benefits each would provide?***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm some of the information requested is held by GMP.

Response.

1. Both the 2006 and 2015 schemes have a minimum retirement age of 55, whereas the 1987 scheme continues to allow access to pension benefits before this age. Therefore, a member can take their legacy scheme benefits at the date they would have taken them had it not been for the introduction of the 2015 scheme.
 2. Although CRA's remain within the 1987 and 2006 scheme the introduction of the 2015 scheme removed this requirement. As all officers are now in the 2015 scheme there is no power for forces to compulsory retire on the grounds of age. Regulations remain in the 1987 and 2006 schemes as they link to the calculation of other benefits.
- Questions 3 & 4 are not a valid FOI requests for information as defined by the Freedom of Information Act. Information is defined in section 84 of the Freedom of Information 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 hypothetical pension projections, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.