

Consultation arrangements for future changes to Police Pension Schemes in Northern Ireland

The Department of Justice is committed to engaging with members (or those who represent the interests of members) when any changes are made to regulations of a pension scheme or before the introduction of a new scheme.

In addition, section 21 of the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 creates some specific obligations in terms of consultation. This statement fulfils those obligations.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is responsible for the administration of the pension scheme.

Before making regulations that will create a new scheme or that would introduce changes to a pension scheme, the Department of Justice expects to consult the following:

Police Federation for Northern Ireland

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Superintendents Association of Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Policing Board

The Chief Police Officers Staff Association

The Police Advisory Board for England and Wales

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Other individuals or organisations may also be consulted, as appropriate. Where a change will not affect some members the relevant members (or those representing them) will not automatically be consulted. However, it is possible that a consultation of this nature could take place.

The form and style of consultation will vary, according to the nature of the change. Minor, technical changes that are made to reflect changes in the under-pinning pension legislation will receive a lower profile, and may take place in a shorter timescale than more substantive ones.