



DEFENCE POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament

All Members

Circular 26/21

4th August 2021

Pension Action Update

In previous circulars we have advised that the MoD's failure to pay for a reduction in the effective pension age from State pension age to age 65 (a so-called "EPA option") has been challenged in a complaint to the Pensions Ombudsman. The MoD agreed to pay for an EPA option for all MDP officers as part of the TACOS package implemented in April 2016. It did not deliver on this agreement.

We are happy to report that, after a seemingly interminable delay, the Ombudsman has accepted our argument on all points.

The result is that, although in formal terms MDP officers have a normal pension age equal to their State pension age (which currently might be age 66, 67 or 68), in fact they can retire at the age of 65 without any actuarial reduction to their pension.

You do not have to pay for the cost of buying out the cost of the reduction that would otherwise have been made. The MoD will have to pay for it. They agreed to do so in 2016, and the Pensions Ombudsman has now confirmed that they must honour that agreement.

We will now engage with the Department to ensure that the necessary action is taken to have the Ombudsman determination implemented and the EPA applied to members pensions as soon as possible.

Some officers may have paid themselves to purchase an EPA option. If you have, please make yourselves known to us. We will seek to obtain reimbursement of the extra contributions you have paid, with interest.

Similarly, some officers may have retired since 2016 with an actuarially reduced pension. If you have, then again please make yourselves known to us. We will seek to obtain reimbursement of the reduction that was made, with interest.

Having an effective pension age of 65 is clearly good news, but it is far from the end of our campaign. It remains our view that it is unrealistic to expect MDP officers to retire at the age of 66, 67 or 69. In our view the normal pension age for all officers should be age 60. We will maintain our campaign through whatever channels are available to achieve that result.

We will keep member informed of developments as the process moves forward.

Paul Hunter
Southern Area Secretary
& Pension Lead

Mitch Batt
General Secretary