

# Part-time police officers will get pay boost in pensions packets

The Home Office has finally agreed to alter pensions rules which penalised part-time officers - following pressure from the Federation.

The move, by the Home Office, means that part-time officers will be entitled to their pension at age 50 after 25 years service like their full-time colleagues.

Previously, those who were part-time often had to wait until they were 55 or 60 depending on their rank to get their pension.

Now they will qualify after an equal number of calendar years of pensionable service.

The changes also mean that the amount of pension payable to a part-time officer will be fairer.

For example, an officer with 30 years service will now qualify for half of a pension of their full-time equivalent if they have

worked half the time of their full-time colleagues.

This compares to less than half before the changes were made.

John Francis, general secretary of the Federation, said that they are grateful the Home Office has finally implemented the part-time pension following pressure from the Federation for the past five years.

'In 2002 we pointed out that the existing scheme was discriminatory and agreed changes that have been finally implemented. The good news is that it will apply to all part-time officers as it is backdated to the date of implementation of the scheme in 1992.'

Hazel Blears, police minister, said: 'The amendments recognise the equally important contribution that part-time officers make to the police service.'

## The main changes to pensions include:

- **Part-time officers will qualify for pension benefits after an equal number of calendar years of pensionable service as their full-time colleagues**
- **The amount of pension payable to an officer with part-time service will be a pro-rated proportion of the pension they would have received after full-time service;**
- **The effect of these changes will be backdated to 1 July 1992, when the option of part-time service was introduced and pensioners will have their pensions adjusted where necessary;**
- **The amended regulations will apply without reservation to all officers who enter part-time service for the first time from 22 June 2005;**
- **Existing pensioners, and officers with pensionable part-time service prior to 22 June 2005, who may be adversely affected by the amended regulations will not be subject to the changes.**

Source: Home Office

For further information can be found at:  
[www.policereform.gov.uk](http://www.policereform.gov.uk)

## Bravery Awards highlight the importance of police officer role in combating criminals

The Federation has highlighted the importance of properly skilled and trained police officers as the Bravery Awards are set to honor those who have faced potentially life-threatening situations.

Jan Berry, chairman of the Federation, said that the Federation's Police Bravery Awards, in association with *The Sun newspaper*, provide recognition for the work of unsung heroes.

She said that the actions of the men and women put forward for the awards and the everyday work of police officers on Britain's streets showed why the skills of a constable are so important to tackling crime.

The award ceremony, which will be hosted by presenter Mark Durden-Smith, will take place at The Dorchester Hotel in London on July 14.

The regional winners of the prestigious awards will meet the



Prime Minister Tony Blair at Number 10 and will be formally presented with their trophy at the glitzy award ceremony at The Dorchester.

This month's *Police* features the third in a series of articles focusing on police officers from forces across the regions who have carried out great acts of bravery in the face of adversity.

See pages 25 to 30.

## Partnerships set up to tackle crime are proving pricey

Less than half of Crime and Disorder Partnerships believe their work has led to a fall in crime, according to a report by a group of influential MPs.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), a cross-party group, reported the findings in *Reducing crime: the Home Office working with Crime and Reduction Partnerships*.

The report states that while the Government has ploughed nearly £1 billion into 376 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships since 1999, fewer than half believe their work has actually led to a fall in crime.

Edward Leigh, the Tory chairman of the PAC, described some initiatives as "truly inspiring", but the report says that the Home Office has failed to demonstrate a measurable reduction in crime.

The report recommends that the Government should review whether there are too many partnerships nationally and to explore successful initiatives elsewhere, such as the zero tolerance model from New York.

It makes a number of other wide ranging recommendations including local targets being better linked with national targets and lessons learnt from reducing bureaucracy in partnerships should be applied to the police.