

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for contacting me regarding PFEW’s pension compensation claim.

We have received many calls requesting further clarification on a variety of issues, so I wanted to reply in writing explaining our position in a little more detail.

The purpose of our claim is to ensure those who have not already submitted one in respect of the pension discrimination, are also considered for any compensation the court awards for the distress caused by the discriminatory changes.

The Government has conceded that the transitional arrangements resulted in unlawful discrimination and have committed to rectifying that discrimination for all affected. The Federation awaits details of how discriminatory pension changes will be put right. The detail of any such changes are not part of this claim.

Many have also asked if those who have already lodged a similar legal claim will be eligible for this group action. You cannot have two claims for the same matter but if any existing claimants wish to change their legal representative to one provided by PFEW, they are entitled to make an application for legal assistance in the usual way and we will be providing more information in relation to this in due course, including through FAQs.

Further FAQs have been issued by the communications teams in Leatherhead and I am told this will happen on a regular basis. A video explaining the process and answering further questions is also being prepared.

I am told the consent form and questionnaire will be ready shortly. Eligible members will be contacted in due course via email, so you do not need to do anything else until you receive that correspondence. This claim is likely to involve tens of thousands of officers. The only way that this claim can be effectively managed and to keep costs down is by applying a rigid process. The process will include the online completion of the consent form and questionnaire. There will be

no one-to-one emails, correspondence or conversations with members and you should not contact the Federation’s nominated legal advisors.

As set out in this paragraph, you will not have to pay anything to join this claim if you are eligible. PFEW will fund the legal action entirely from the organisation’s existing funds. Provided members abide by the terms of the Group Action (further details on that will follow), PFEW does not expect to ask members to contribute towards the costs. PFEW will regularly review costs and reserves the right to withdraw funding but would not charge individuals for any work undertaken prior to this.

Many have asked why PFEW has decided to take this legal action now. Those at Leatherhead have regularly reviewed the position as the claims have progressed through the courts. The initial advice gave poor prospects of a legal challenge being successful, but we stated the position would be kept under review.

Whenever there has been a change in the circumstances or a particular milestone such as a new ruling, we have reviewed our position. We made the decision to commence the claim in the face of the Government’s refusal to provide assurances that any compensation awarded to existing claimants would be reflected for those who had not lodged a claim.

There is further, more detailed information on this in the next round of FAQs.

I hope this goes some way to addressing the points you have highlighted, and we will do our best to ensure our members are updated as often as possible.

***Kirsty Bunn***

Secretary

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