

This communication is being passed onto you in respect of some information that our member Mr. Barry Ashcroft is seeking

It appears that this subject affects a number of retired Police Officers in the South Wales Police however the scale and numbers are not currently known.

The following has been received from Barry:

I have been involved in a lengthy and slow discussion with South Wales Police (SWP) regarding the unlawful deduction of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from Injury on duty Pension - I am sure that I am not the only SWP Pensioner who has had the equivalent of ESA unlawfully deducted from an Injury Pension. I am trying to establish the scale of the problem within SWP and would ask anybody who has had a similar experience or may want more information, to contact me on a confidential basis.

Barry has been liaising with Steve Edwards at NARPO HQ and Wayne Evans locally regarding this issue. We are also in contact with Mark Lake, Solicitor, in respect of this and other similar issues being co-ordinated by Wayne.

I have had very good freedom of Information responses from the Home Office but, it would help the cause no end to have some idea of the scale of the problem in SWP so I would welcome contact with the rest of the force.

It would appear that both the force and Alan Michael's office have been in contact with the Home Office but, rather than look at the issue from the pensioner's perspective, they are only interested in who is going to pay.

As stated by Barry any assistance you as members can provide will be treated in total confidence. Please make contact via the e-mail address barfran2000@gmail.com

If you believe that you are affected by this issue and do not know what to do, the following information has been supplied by Mr. Dave A'Herne, Cardiff Branch Welfare Officer, which maybe of assistance or at the very least, point you in the right direction:

Some members in receipt of an Injury Pension may also be receiving ESA which has, in some circumstances, replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB). The Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations, 2006 list the DWP/Pension Service Benefits that can be deducted from an Injury Pension; Incapacity Benefit is named as a deductible benefit.

Although ESA was introduced in 2008, the Home Office have confirmed that they have done nothing to amend the 2006 regulations to include ESA as a deductible benefit, thereby making deductions unlawful.

For a full explanation and to get a pro forma letter to send to the Chief Constable go to the NARPO web site at and click on Injury Pensions.

Or copy the link into your web browser:

<http://www.narpo.org/index.php/pensions/injury-pensions.html>