

VOLUNTARY FUND RULES

ADMINISTERED BY

THE POLICE FEDERATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

RULE 1

The Central Committee of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland may raise funds by the collection of voluntary subscriptions and the acceptance of donations from the members, and from the sale of periodicals and other articles, but not otherwise.

RULE 2

All members whose contributions commence within three months of joining or rejoining the PSNI will have an unqualified right to the benefits set out in these Rules, as amended from time to time, provided the contributions have been continuous with police service.

A member who does not contribute within three months of becoming eligible or knowingly ceases to contribute or fails to or no longer qualifies for benefits under these Rules, as the case may be.

Member includes all members of the PSNI, up to and including Chief Inspector, and all members of the Police Officers Part Time [POPT].

RULE 3

With effect from **1st May 2024**, the voluntary contribution to the Fund shall be **£27.89** per month or such other amount, as deemed necessary by Central Committee.

Where a paying member of the Voluntary Fund is reduced to no pay through ill health, their subscription will be reduced to Zero for the duration of the period of their reduction in pay.

RULE 4

The Police Federation for Northern Ireland shall keep detailed accounts and shall have them audited annually by an authorised and independent auditor

Copies of the annual statement of accounts shall be sent by the Police

Federation for Northern Ireland to the Secretary of State, and circulated throughout the Service, for the information of 'members'.

RULE 5

Federation funds may only be used for the purposes prescribed in Regulations and, within these general purposes, only as may be determined from time to time by the Central Committee. Without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph, and without prejudice to the right of the Central Committee subsequently to amend them, the following are the uses to which the various Federation funds may be put:-

- (a)** On all matters not otherwise provided for below which are or may be incidental or conducive to the objects of the Police Federation
- (b)** On the administrative expenses of the Central Committee, including the provision of office accommodation, the payment of due taxes, the retention and payment of persons consulted in an administrative, professional or advisory capacity, the engagement of all necessary staff and generally in any manner which the Central Committee shall deem necessary to enable it to carry out its function as the ruling body of the Police Federation
- (c)** On expenses in connection with the publication and distribution of reports and other documents, including a journal or magazine, and the purchase of publications for the use of Committees and Regional Boards
- (d)** On charitable purposes and on the instigation and operation of insurance and medical superannuation and similar schemes for the benefit of its members and staff
- (e)** On supporting individual members of the Police Federation, their widows/widowers and children in pension or medical appeals
- (f)** The testing of decisions affecting all ranks or decisions which might affect one rank only, but which are against the policy of the Federation from time to time and are matters of general and universal principle such as the advancement of fair and proper selection or other procedures advocated as matters of policy by the Federation
- (g)** On obtaining legal advice and assistance in connection with legal proceedings involving members for acts done in the bona-fide performance of duty where the Chief Officer has not agreed to provide the member with legal assistance in his or her defence (Including travelling to and from work as defined by Pensions

Regulations). The proceedings to which this paragraph refers are:-

- (1)** Proceedings brought against a member for an offence under any enactment relating to road traffic
- (2)** Criminal charges brought against a member
- (3)** Matters before a Coroners court or Tribunal of inquiry other than an Employment Tribunal or Fair Employment Tribunal. Such assistance may be given to the personal representatives or dependants of a deceased officer or to an officer who was directly involved in such.
- (4)** In supporting applications to Employment Tribunals or the Fair Employment Tribunal involving members both singly or collectively, where there are claims of unlawful discrimination and where such applications are deemed to involve matters of universal principle or policy affecting members generally. The sanctioning of support for such applications shall be in accordance with the general procedure laid down in these Rules.

In addition it shall be a prior condition of the granting and acceptance of such support that where an award of compensation (whether obtained after hearing or upon settlement) exceeds the cost of legal assistance the member will be required to make a contribution towards the cost of such legal assistance out of the compensation awarded. Decisions as to whether there should be such a contribution and the amount of such contribution shall be made in its absolute discretion by the Central Committee of the Police Federation provided that the amount of such contribution shall not exceed 50% of the compensation awarded to any member whether in an individual application or in the aggregate in respect of more than one application.

- (5)** Where an award of compensation (whether obtained after hearing or upon settlement) is obtained, the member will be required to make a contribution towards the cost of legal assistance out of the compensation awarded. The contribution should be 50% of the total cost of legal assistance provided that the amount shall not exceed 50% of the compensation awarded to any member whether in an individual application or in the aggregate in respect of more than one application.
- (h)** On providing legal advice and assistance in disciplinary proceedings, unsatisfactory performance and attendance proceedings arising from any matters either on or off duty, other than criminal conduct and or conduct not connected to the duties of a Constable, where the member may be subject to:-
- (1)** Dismissal without notice;
 - (2)** Dismissal with notice; or

(3) Reduction in Rank

- (i)** On the payment on behalf of a Regional Board all costs, fees, expenses properly authorised and incurred by the Board.
- (j)** On supporting claims for compensation by members for injuries sustained or Criminal Damage against their property whilst engaged in the bona fide performance of their duty or as a result of their membership of the Service.
- (k)** On supporting claims of members that may have been defamed in relation to their conduct as police officers.
- (l)** In the granting of legal assistance this will be at Junior Counsel level unless in exceptional circumstances, as approved by the Finance, Pay and Pensions Sub - Committee of the Police Federation.
- (m)** In the case of any member who dies whilst serving payment from the Voluntary Fund of £3,500 (with immediate effect), to be uplifted annually on 01st April in line with the median value of RPI and CPI. Payment is to be made to the widow or any dependant or other person. (The decision of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland as to whom the money will be paid shall be final.)
- (n)** On such contributions to the Northern Ireland Policing Board as may be required in respect of the pay, pension or allowances of the Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland.
- (o)** To advancing by way of grant to Regional Boards such sum or sums as may be required.
- (p)** On making payments to members of such an amount as may be decided in respect of their out-of-pocket and travelling expenses in attending Federation meetings and commitments.
- (q)** Provided always that in the sanctioning of such claims not specifically provided for in these rules:-
 - (1)** The prior approval of the Central Committee of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland shall be obtained;
 - (2)** The Central Committee of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland shall have an absolute discretion in such matters.
- (r)** Notwithstanding the provisions of sub paragraph (g) and (h) above, the Central Committee of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland may, in its absolute discretion, sanction or refuse the giving of legal advice and/or assistance in connection with any criminal or disciplinary matter not covered by these paragraphs.

Non-contributing members shall not be entitled to demand any action which involves the expenditure of Federation money, but may receive advice and representation from the appropriate body on all matters affecting pay, allowances and conditions of service. Save as is hereafter mentioned, all those persons making voluntary contributions shall be entitled to all the benefits provided by the Federation.

Any member failing to pay contributions within three months of his becoming a member and any member, who ceases to be a contributor and then subsequently elects again to pay contributions, may be required by Central Committee to pay contributions for a period of twelve months before becoming entitled to all the benefits additional to those available to non-contributing members.

In the event of a member being temporarily promoted to a rank outside of the Police Federation, the member will on reverting to his substantive rank, be eligible immediately for the benefits obtainable under the Rules, provided he commences payment of contributions forthwith.

When matters relating to the Federation funds are being dealt with at conferences, at meetings of the Central Committee or meetings of a Regional Board, only those who are contributors to the Funds from among those present shall be entitled to speak on such matters.

Any non-contributors among those present have no right to raise any issue concerning the voluntary funds or contributions, or to speak or vote on such issue. At general meetings convened by the Central Committee or Regional Boards, a non-contributor shall have no right to initiate, discuss or vote on issues relating to these funds or contributions.

To grant honoraria in appropriate cases.

Members should also note that the Police Federation for Northern Ireland will not expend funds on legal advice or legal proceedings which includes Federated Member against Federated Member.

