

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

April 2019

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about police pensions.

As I am sure you are aware, in January 2016 the Police Pensions Regulations 1987 and the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 were amended. This change was introduced to allow the widows, widowers and civil partners of police officers in England and Wales who have died as a result of an injury on duty and who qualified for a survivor pension after 1 April 2015 to continue to receive their survivors' benefits for life.

As I understand it, successive Governments have been clear that there is a general presumption against making retrospective changes to public service pension schemes. I welcome the fact that the Government believes the arguments for making an exception for the widows of police officers who died as a result of an injury on duty are sufficiently compelling in this case.

You referred to the decisions made by the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on this issue. The Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for the design and funding of police pensions in their respective parts of the United Kingdom. I understand that the Government has a continuing duty to ensure that public services are affordable, sustainable and fair in England and Wales, so any decision by a devolved administration should not automatically form a precedent.

I am not currently aware of any plans to make any further changes to survivor benefits for police pension schemes.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**