



## **30+ Retention Scheme:** **Comprehensive Scheme Review 2008**

The 30+ scheme arose from the Police Negotiating Board Agreement of May 2002 and gives police forces the opportunity to retain personnel with valuable skills and experience which would otherwise be lost to retirement. It does so by offering police officers the opportunity to take advantage of an early tax-free lump sum payment while continuing to serve as an attested officer at the same rank and pay level as before. This measure was introduced in order to reduce mass retirement, avoid recruitment bulges and address potential skills shortages that would have resulted from this.

The scheme was given approval by Ministers and HM Treasury to run until 31 March 2010, when it is due to be closed to new entrants. However, an increasing number of late joiners to the police service, the higher compulsory retirement ages (CRAs) introduced in October 2006 and the growing cohort of members of the New Police Pension Scheme (2006) that must now accrue 35 years service before receiving a maximum pension have all been factors that have potentially reduced the operational need for this scheme in recent years. These factors, amongst others, may mean that we need to consider closing the scheme before 2010 subject to the outcome of this review.

In order to evaluate the continued effectiveness of the scheme we have produced this questionnaire to assess the way in which the scheme has been operated since its pilot in 2002. We kindly ask that you complete it in full. We appreciate that some of the information may not be readily available but the information required is vital to helping us make the correct decision regarding the continuation of this scheme. If you have any queries about any of the questions, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

### **Notes on completing the form**

This is an electronic form. You complete each section by clicking on the grey box next to or underneath each question. You can then write as much as you like. When you have finished, either click on the next box, or press the 'TAB' key to jump to the next box. Where the grey box says "Please select", click on it to display the options for answering. Then click on your choice.

When you have completed the form, please:

- save it as '30+ Review <insert force name>' (e.g. 30+ Review Dorset) and email it to me at [S.40\(2\)@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:S.40(2)@npia.pnn.police.uk), or
- print it out and post it to me at the address below:

S.40(2)

(telephone S.40(2))

Workforce Strategy Unit

NPIA

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**PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY**  
**FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2008**

## Force Contact Details

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Force: Devon and Cornwall

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Address: Force Information Section, Professional Standards & Performance Dept., Elliott House, Middlemoor, Exeter, Devon EX2 7HQ

1. When did your force start operating the scheme (including any pilot scheme)? **2004**
2. Does your force have any officers on the 30+ scheme? **yes**
3. Are you still accepting new entrants onto the scheme? **yes** *If yes, skip to question 5*
4. If you have closed the scheme to new entrants, when did you do so and what were your reasons?  
**Not applicable**
5. What is your policy regarding those already on the scheme, i.e. have you retained them beyond their annual reviews, and if so, why?  
**A few have been retained 'by accident' because their annual reviews were missed.**
6. If your force is still accepting new entrants, how do officers in your force generally find out about the 30+ scheme? Yes, although we are looking at applications more carefully and being very selective. They find out through word of mouth and through force messaging and the **Force Intranet**
7. What information or materials do you routinely supply to officers before they apply?  
**Full guidance (NPIA), Quick Reference Guide, Step by Step Guide, Guidance for Managers, Notes for completing the Application, Medical Questionnaire and an Annual Review form.**
8. Please outline details of the process by which officers apply for the 30+ scheme, and by which your force assesses applications and makes decisions. Please give as much information as possible (including any process maps or flow charts where appropriate).  
**Attached is a copy of the Step by Step Guide and Guidance for Managers which detail the process that an application follows and the requirements of line managers.**
9. What number of officers who reached 30 years pensionable service in the year from 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008 (inclusive) did the following?

Retire and leave the police service	47
Retire and join police (civilian) staff (incl. redeployments)	18
Retire and join the Special Constabulary	1
Apply for 30+ scheme	17
Stay on and reduce hours from full-time to part-time	0
Stay on as before/no change	55

10. Please complete the table below with the information regarding 30+ applications in the year from 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008 (inclusive) and in total (i.e. since your force has been operating the scheme, including any pilot period and last year's numbers).

<b>Prospective 30+ Officers</b>	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Number of eligible officers	137	438
Number of applications received	17	61
Number of applications rejected	0	1
Average age upon application	50	50
Average length of pensionable service upon application	31	30

11. Please complete the table below with the **information for officers** who were accepted onto the scheme in the year from 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008 (inclusive) and for all officers who ever joined the scheme (including any pilot period and last year's numbers).

<b>Current 30+ Officers</b>	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Number of officers who joined the scheme	17	60
... of which are in specialist/hard-to-fill roles	2	3
... with a detailed succession plan	0	0
Average time between retirement and 30+ re-engagement	3 days	3 days
Average time of re-engagement initially requested	3 years	4 years
Applications for maximum four-year initial appointment	12	48
Appointments that were extended	0	2
... of which were initial four-year appointments	0	2
... with a detailed succession plan	0	0
Officers on restricted duties	1	4
Redeployments	0	0
Number of 30+ Officers living in police houses	0	0

12. Please give a diversity breakdown by rank and gender of officers who joined 30+ **in the year from 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008** (inclusive).

30+ Officers Feb 2006 to present		Constable		Sergeant		Inspector		Ch Inspector		Superintend't		Ch Supt	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
White	British	S. 40(2)											
	Irish												
	Other												
Asian/ Asian British	Indian												
	Pakistani												
	Bangladeshi												
	Other												
Black/ Black British	Caribbean												
	African												
	Other												
Mixed	White & Blk Carib												
	White & Blk Afr												
	White & Asian												
	Other												
Other	Chinese												
	Other												
Disabled													
Age	48-55												
	55+												
Sex	Hetero												
	Homo												
	Bi												
	Not specified												
Faith	Buddhist												
	Christian												
	Hindu												
	Jewish												
	Muslim												
	Sikh												
	None												
	Other												

Please give a diversity breakdown by rank and gender **for ALL officers currently retained on 30+.**

All current30+ Officers		Constable	Sergeant	Inspector	Ch Inspector	Superintend't	Ch Supt
White	British	S. 40(2)					
	Irish						
	Other						
Asian/ Asian British	Indian						
	Pakistani						
	Bangladeshi						
	Other						
Black/ Black British	Caribbean						
	African						
	Other						
Mixed	White & Blk Carib						
	White & Blk Afr						
	White & Asian						
	Other						
Other	Chinese						
	Other						
Disabled							
Age	48-55						
	55+						
Sex	Hetero						
	Homo						
	Bi						
	Not specified						
Faith	Buddhist						
	Christian						
	Hindu						
	Jewish						
	Muslim						
	Sikh						
	None						
	Other						

13. Please outline the savings made or costs incurred through 30+ retentions, broken down by rank and averaged per year, using generic costings where specific numbers are not available (please refer to costings template for guidance on calculating these figures)

Rank	Number of these on 30+	Average Saving* per year of retention	TOTAL Saving*
Constable	33	£18,590	£613,470
Sergeant	11	£14,594	£160,534
Inspector	7	£14,757	£103,299
Chief Inspector	1	£12,716	£12,716
Superintendent			£
Chief Superintendent		£	£
		<b>Overall saving*:</b>	<b>£ 890,019</b>

\* where a cost was incurred, please mark this as a negative saving, e.g. -£1,234.

14. Please outline details of the process by which an officer's continuing participation is kept under review whilst on the scheme. Please give as much information as possible (including any process maps, annual review report templates or flow charts where appropriate).

**A copy of the annual review form is attached. The guidance for the review are contained within the Notes for Managers mentioned in Q.8**

15. Please complete the table below with information on the circumstances surrounding any 30+ appointments that were terminated early, i.e. before the date forecast by the business case for retention.

<b>30+ appointments terminated early...</b>	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
... through officer's resignation	3	4
... on grounds of ill-health	0	0
... on grounds of efficiency (A19 or efficiency regulations)	0	0
... on grounds of (mis)conduct	0	0
... at annual review	0	0
... mid-year (i.e. business case becoming invalid unexpectedly)	0	0
Officers who qualified for injury awards whilst serving on 30+	0	0
Officer disciplined (conduct regulations) whilst serving on 30+	0	0

16. Please complete the table below with information on appeals against any decisions you made to terminate an officer's 30+ appointment.

<b>Number of appeals against decision to terminate contract...</b>	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
... at end of initially granted appointment	0	0
... of which were successful	0	0
... at annual review	0	0
... of which were successful	0	0
... mid-year	0	0
... of which were successful	0	0

17. Please give details of **any** appeals (including any internal appeals, informal challenges, employment tribunals etc) involving 30+, including copies of any relevant paperwork where appropriate.

**Not Applicable**

18. How have retirement patterns changed since the introduction of the scheme? Please complete the table below with the information relating to the period before the scheme was piloted in 2002 and the last 12 months (1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008 inclusive).

	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>2002</b>
Average retirement age	51	52
Average length of service upon retirement	29 years	30
Percentage of officers who retired upon reaching maximum pension benefits	46%	52%
Percentage of officers retained in specialist roles with more than 30 years service (including those on 30+ and not)	5%	7%

19. How many officers in your force are likely to become eligible to retire with maximum pension benefits over the next three years?

2008/09: **79**

2009/10: **69**

2010/11: **106**

20. Are you planning to keep the scheme open to new entrants until 2010? **Yes, unless advertised otherwise by the Home Office**

If not, please give your reasoning behind this decision, and state when you anticipate this to take effect:

21. If your force intends to keep operating the scheme, what effect would it have on your force if the scheme was to be centrally closed to new entrants...
- a) now? **Very little, we are reviewing every vacancy within the force as we are civilianising some police officer posts which means that nearly 200 officers need to be redeployed. This means that we will not retain retiring officers in posts to be civilianised. Our concern is that they do not have to retire until they are 60/65. What happens if we do not approved their application for 30+. We can't make them retire before 60/65, can we?**
- or
- b) in 2010? **As above**
22. What plans do you have for phasing out those accepted onto the scheme?  
**We expect them to retire when they reach the end of their extended term. However, what power do we have to retire them before the compulsory retirement age?**
23. Beyond 2010, do you foresee a shortage of skilled and experienced officers, and if so, what plans do you have to deal with your operational needs for retaining valuable skills and experience?  
**Officers can choose to stay on until they are 60/65. We believe that many of those who ask to join the 30+ scheme have no intention of leaving and would have stayed anyway. The only reason is for the release of their lump sum payment. We do not foresee any detrimental effect on stopping the scheme beyond 2010**
24. Overall, how would you summarise your experience with the scheme since its introduction?  
**Administrative burden, officers only want their lump sum and continued employment.**
25. Any other comments?  
**No**

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## **END OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you very much.