



## **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**

Name: **S. 40(2)** Job Title: **Senior HR Officer**

Force: **Suffolk**

Email: **S. 40(2)**@suffolk.pnn.police.uk Contact no.: **S. 40(2)**

Address: **Suffolk Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
Martlesham Heath  
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IP5 3QS**

1. When did your force start operating the scheme (including any pilot scheme)? **August 2005**
2. Does your force have any officers on the 30+ scheme? **please select Yes**
3. Are you still accepting new entrants onto the scheme? **please select 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?
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?  
**Applications have been received and approved for varying periods between 1 and 4 years at the request of the individual officer. A number of officers have resigned before the end of the approved contract. None have yet been terminated at an earlier date at the force's instigation**
6. If your force is still accepting new entrants, how do officers in your force generally find out about the 30+ scheme?  
**please select: Force Intranet**
7. What information or materials do you routinely supply to officers before they apply?  
**Force procedure and standard documentation including application form and statement**
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).

**The scheme has been operated on a voluntary basis and all officers with the required min 30 years service can make application.**

**Applications are considered on an individual basis with special consideration been given to hard to fill posts and skill shortages in addition to retaining the right mix of experience.**

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	13
Retire and join police (civilian) staff (incl. redeployments)	9
Retire and join the Special Constabulary	0
Apply for 30+ scheme	10 *
Stay on and reduce hours from full-time to part-time	0
Stay on as before/no change	7

- ***Includes one withdrawn***

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><u>Prospective 30+ Officers</u></b>	<b>Last 12 months</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Number of eligible officers	18	57

Number of applications received	10	26
Number of applications rejected	1	1
Average age upon application	50.2	50.6
Average length of pensionable service upon application	30.06	30.2

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 (nclusive) 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	8	24
... of which are in specialist/hard-to-fill roles	1	3
... with a detailed succession plan	0	1
Average time between retirement and 30+ re-engagement	1 day	1 day
Average time of re-engagement initially requested	3.4	3.6
Applications for maximum four-year initial appointment	5	19
Appointments that were extended	0	1
... of which were initial four-year appointments	0	0
... with a detailed succession plan	0	0
Officers on restricted duties	0	1
Redeployments	1	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	S. 40(2)
	Not specified	
Faith*	Buddhist	
	Christian	
	Hindu	
	Jewish	
	Muslim	
	Sikh	
	None	
	Other	

- **Faith and sexual orientation not recorded**

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	
		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												

- **Faith and sexual orientation not recorded**

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)

To follow, apologies for the delay

Rank	Number of these on 30+	Average Saving* per year of retention	TOTAL Saving*
Constable	15	£	£
Sergeant	3	£	£
Inspector	2	£	£
Chief Inspector	1	£	£

Superintendent		£	£
Chief Superintendent		£	£
		<b>Overall saving*:</b>	<b>£</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).

**Reviewed as part of the individual's Personal Development Review. In addition 30 + contracts are further reviewed by the Resource Allocation Group**

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		
... on grounds of efficiency (A19 or efficiency regulations)		
... on grounds of (mis)conduct		
... at annual review		
... mid-year (i.e. business case becoming invalid unexpectedly)		
Officers who qualified for injury awards whilst serving on 30+		
Officer disciplined (conduct regulations) whilst serving on 30+		

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		
... at annual review	0	0
... of which were successful		
... mid-year	0	0
... of which were successful		

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.

**N/A**

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	51.29	51.56
Average length of service upon retirement	30.01	29.93
Percentage of officers who retired upon reaching maximum pension	59.5%	72.1%

benefits		
Percentage of officers retained in specialist roles with more than 30 years service (including those on 30+ and not)		

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: **34**                      2009/10: **45**                      2010/11: **24**

20. Are you planning to keep the scheme open to new entrants until 2010? **please select**  
 If not, please give your reasoning behind this decision, and state when you anticipate this to take effect:

**No decisions have yet been made but this would be reconsidered dependant on the likely continuation of the scheme beyond that date and the result of this review. Over recent months most requests have been agreed for an initial period of 1 year only.**

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? **There would be no objections to the scheme being either phased out or discontinued with immediate effect in respect fo new entrants. Consideration would have to be given as to the likely protection to be given to existing participants**

or

b) in 2010? **as above**

22. What plans do you have for phasing out those accepted onto the scheme?

**As a result of this review, some guidance may prove useful to enable forces to review those on the scheme, if the expectation is that they should be terminated before the full term of their contract.**

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?

**None specific are anticipated. It is important however that this is reviewed on an ongoing basis and that proper succession plans are put in place for specific roles.**

24. Overall, how would you summarise your experience with the scheme since its introduction?

**Whilst the scheme was useful in its time, its advantages have now diminished following the review of compulsory retirement age. The interest and take up have been mixed and there is evidence of officers continuing beyond 30 years without taking advantage of the scheme**

25. Any other comments?

**Apologies for the delay in respect of some information. A further return will be forwarded as soon as possible**

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## END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you very much.