

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – DMPCD 2014 129

Title: Determine whether an application for a certificate of forfeiture should be submitted to the Home Secretary.

Executive Summary:

This decision is to determine whether an application should be submitted to the Home Office for a certificate of forfeiture in respect of the ex-officer's pension. At this first stage of the process DMPC must consider whether the offence committed by the ex-officer was committed in connection with his service as a member of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Recommendation

- To determine that the offence was committed in connection with the ex-officer's service as a member of the Metropolitan Police Service and submit an application for a certificate of forfeiture to the Home Secretary.

See Decision Summary; and

Part 2 Decision Form with detailed information

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I hereby approve the decision set out in Part 2 of this Decision Form.

Signature

Date

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

See Part 2 of this Decision Form.

2. Issues for consideration

See Part 2 of this Decision Form.

3. Financial Comments

There are no financial implications for MOPAC.

4. Legal Comments

4.1 Regulation K5 of the Police Pensions Regulations 1987 (as amended) made under the Police Pensions Act 1976 states at sub paragraph (4):

“Subject to paragraph 5, [the pension supervising authority in respect of] a pension to which this Regulation applies may determine that the pension be forfeited, in whole or in part and permanently or temporarily as they may specify, if the grantee has been convicted of an offence committed in connection with his service as a member of a police force which is certified by the Secretary of State either to have been gravely injurious to the interests of the State or to be liable to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public service.” [Emphasis added].

The MOPAC is the local policing body for the Metropolitan Police District under the Police Act 1996. As such, by virtue of section 11(2) of the Police Pensions Act 1976 the MOPAC is the “pension supervising authority” in respect of the Metropolitan Police Service.

4.2 At this first stage of the process it is for the MOPAC to establish whether the ex-officer has committed an offence in connection with his/her service as a member of a police force. The Courts have ruled that the pensioner need not have been a serving officer at the time of the offence in order to meet the requirement that it must be connected with his/her service. For instance, the offence may have been committed after the pensioner retired but he or she may have used police knowledge or police systems or police contacts in the commission of the offence. However, pension rights, once earned, should not be forfeited except in serious circumstances. Forfeiture will therefore not be appropriate in every case where a pensioner has committed a criminal offence, but it should always be considered where the offence was serious and there is or might be public concern about the pensioner’s abuse of his/her position of trust.

4.3 Where a case has been identified, (and without prejudice to the final decision by the police authority on whether to forfeit a pension), the police authority should apply to the Home Secretary for the issue of a certificate. The authority should provide the basis for the application, including the reasons for the police authority’s view that the pensioner’s offence was committed in connection with his/her police service.

4.4 The Home Secretary will then consider whether the pensioner’s offence was either gravely injurious to the interests of the State or liable to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public service. If the Home Secretary issues a certificate on that basis it will be for the police authority to decide whether and to what extent the pension should be forfeited.

5. Equality Comments

There are no specific equality issues associated with the decision at this stage..

6. Background/supporting papers

See Part 2 Decision Form

<p>Public access to information Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the MOPAC website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.</p>	
<p>Is the publication of this form to be deferred? NO</p> <p>If yes, for what reason:</p> <p>Until what date (if known):</p>	
<p>Is there a part 2 form – YES</p> <p>If yes, for what reason: Confidential information relating to an individual</p>	

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
<p>Head of Unit: Yvonne Peart has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC’s plans and priorities.</p>	✓
<p>Legal Advice: Legal Advice is not required.</p>	✓
<p>Financial Advice: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.</p>	✓
<p>Equalities Advice: Equality and Diversity issues are covered in the body of the report. The Workforce Development Officer has been consulted on the equalities and diversity issues within this report.</p>	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL

<p>Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.</p>	
<p>Signature</p>	<p>Date</p>

