

CIVIL NUCLEAR POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament



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Ms Andrea Leadsom MP,
Minister of State
Department of Energy and Climate Change
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5th July 2016

Dear *Minister,*

My colleagues and I were obviously disappointed that the meeting which was scheduled for last Thursday had to be cancelled. Given the fast changing nature of the current leadership election we understand the competing priorities and would like to meet you when political life is hopefully less hectic.

In the meantime, we have a pressing case to make on behalf of our Federation members for which I would be grateful for your attention. As you know the Federation is in dialogue with the Civil Nuclear Police Authority on future pension regulations which need to be determined under Section 10 of the 2013 Public Sector Pensions Act. The major obstacle to progress is the apparent insistence by Government on a retirement age of 68 or possibly 65. Without an agreed retirement age the regulations cannot be fully drafted.

As already detailed in previous correspondence and submissions the overwhelming professional and objective evidence from our Chief Constable and our Police Authority is that Civil Nuclear Police Officers will find it physically impossible to serve beyond 60. Corporately this Force has the highest standards of physical fitness and weaponry competency of any UK police service. Indeed our Chief Constable is on record to your Director of Nuclear Resilience and Assurance as stating "that in normal operational circumstances it is not sustainable from a capability, reputational, risk and public confidence perspective for AFOs to carry lethal weapons and continue in AFO roles beyond the age of 60."

Our standards have been independently set by the College of Policing which has also volunteered to inform the pension discussion parties on our armed role.

All correspondence to Chief Executive

Officers are routinely tested including live exercises and test failure may ultimately lead to dismissal. Unlike the rest of the UK police service where being an Authorised Firearms Officer is voluntary there are no unarmed roles for our 1250 operational officers.

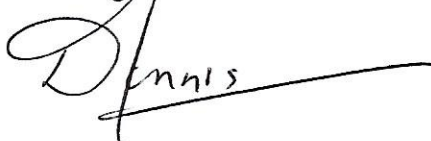
The rest of the UK police service was permitted a retirement age of 60 by the Home Office in 2011. Surely it is inconceivable that the CNC which has the most physically demanding role of protecting our civil nuclear assets and being a key player in the Government's ant-terrorist surge response, should find itself, uniquely, the only police service burdened with a retirement age which very few officers and certainly no female officer will ever achieve?

I understand that the Government may wish to hold the line on a general retirement age of 68 but a one-size fits all retirement age of 68 cannot be blindly applied to every career. Discussions on how an earlier retirement age might be funded would not be without precedent.

The members of this Federation are very proud of their mission and professionalism and wholeheartedly support the necessity for high performance standards to be maintained throughout their career. The threat of terrorist atrocity against our civil nuclear assets or against the ordinary people in public places is very real. We are prepared if necessary to put ourselves in harm's way to do our duty. In return for making that personal commitment we would like to share with all our police colleagues the realistic retirement age of 60.

If the Minister feels, as we do, that a rearranged meeting would be helpful in coming to this view we would be only too willing to oblige.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nigel Dennis,
Chief Executive
Civil Nuclear Police Federation -

Copy –Sir Philip Trousdell - Chairman CNPA

Mike Griffiths – Chief Constable CNC

Simon Chesterman Deputy Chief Constable CNC

Angus MacNeil MP Chairman of Energy and Climate Committee.

All correspondence to Chief Executive