



Department for
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Dear Nigel Dennis

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2017, to Ben Wallace MP, requesting a meeting to discuss the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's (CNC) role in counter-terrorism and how developments regarding your members' pension age will impact their role in these operations. Your letter has been passed to this Department for reply, and I am doing so as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I note your points about the retirement age for Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), given the responsibility of the CNC in safeguarding the UK's civil nuclear facilities and in the safe transportation of nuclear material within the UK and abroad, not forgetting the integral role that the constabulary plays in the UK's wider security.

You mentioned the part that the CNC played in Operation Temperer, and I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all of your members who took part in the two deployments in May and September this year.

Due to other commitments, I am unable to meet with you until early next year, but I appreciate this is a very important issue and I am more than happy to review any written representations on CNC pension age which raise new points. I can assure you that I will fully consider all relevant information when considering whether or not to seek the introduction of new legislation to amend Government policy, in order to provide CNC officers with a different pension age from that currently provided for in legislation.

In the interim, my officials are continuing to work with the CNC on this matter.

pp:

RICHARD HARRINGTON MP
Minister for Energy and Industry