



# Ministry of Defence

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MSU/4/1/5/3/DH

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Dear Eamon,

At our meeting on 17 December 2015 we discussed the status of the negotiations on changes to Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Terms and Conditions of Service. You informed me that following a ballot of your members all aspects of the Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS) negotiations had now been resolved with the exception of pension age, which remained a matter of great importance to your members. You asked me to take up your case for an Enhanced Effective Pension Age (EEPA) of 60 with the Chief Secretary, and I agreed to do so and I wrote to the Chief Secretary in January.

I am now writing to inform you that the Government is not able to agree to an EEPA. The issue was considered at length by the Public Expenditure Pay and Pension Committee under the previous Government in early 2015, and the current Government does not believe that the arguments have changed significantly since then. The pension reforms introduced under the previous Government established an important principle, which is that increased longevity demands longer working lives. The current Government attaches great importance to this principle, and it would not be consistent with this position to agree an EEPA for the MDP.

I regret therefore that the Government cannot agree to your request for an EEPA. The offer of an EPA of a maximum of three years below State Pension Age which was set out in the Department's offer on changes to MDP TACOS dated 16 November 2015 is therefore the Department's final position.

I appreciate that you will be disappointed by this. However, I must emphasise that this decision is final and there is no prospect of movement. I believe that the TACOS offer that has been put to you is very fair and reasonable and is the most that the Government can offer. I strongly encourage you to accept it. I have asked Daniel Applegate to meet you as soon as possible with a view to concluding the negotiations and agreeing a final way ahead, and to report to me on the outcome.

**MARK LANCASTER TD MP**

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