

Contingent decision on reinstatement of opted out service

In August 2024, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) paused the processing of contingent decision claims for affected members. This Pause was introduced to protect members while the Home Office undertook a detailed review of the legislation, sought legal advice and engaged with HM Treasury to understand what options were available to resolve the issue safely and fairly.

During August and early September 2025, the Home Office began a *compensation evaluation*. This looked at whether the issue could be addressed through a compensatory payment, using the existing McCloud compensation framework.

NPCC also [published an update](#) to give members more background and context, and to explain the possible next steps. This update confirmed that a decision from the Policing Minister would be needed before any individual cases could move forward. This approach was intended to ensure that no member was disadvantaged.

We recognise that the expected timelines have not been met, and that it has not been possible to give members or the wider community a meaningful update for some time. NPCC continues to raise this issue on behalf of forces and members and remains in regular contact with the Home Office. The need for a decision has been escalated repeatedly.

NPCC has also shared specific examples with the Home Office where the delay is having a serious impact on individual members' wellbeing. Regrettably, at the time of writing, no further update has yet been provided by the Home Office.

We understand that this situation is deeply frustrating and worrying. While we appreciate that it may offer limited reassurance, members can be confident that forces and NPCC are working closely together, doing everything within their control and continuing to press for urgent resolution.

As soon as the Policing Minister reaches a decision, the Home Office will inform NPCC and this will be shared with forces and members as quickly as possible. Depending on the decision that is made, it is possible that there may be a further delay whilst the outcome is worked through. NPCC are committed to working with forces and administrators to process any urgent cases at the earliest opportunity.

We recognise how difficult this ongoing uncertainty is, and we want to be clear that these delays are outside the control of both your force and NPCC.