
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2006 No. 932

The Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006

PART 4

APPEALS AND MEDICAL QUESTIONS

Reference of medical questions

30.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the question whether a person is entitled to any, and if so what, awards under these Regulations shall be determined in the first instance by the police authority.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where the police authority are considering whether a person is permanently disabled, they shall refer for decision to a duly qualified medical practitioner selected by them the following questions—

- (a) whether the person concerned is disabled;
- (b) whether the disablement is likely to be permanent,

except that, in a case where the said questions have been referred for decision to a duly qualified medical practitioner under regulation H1(2) of the 1987 Regulations, a final decision of a medical authority on the said questions under Part H of the 1987 Regulations shall be binding for the purposes of these Regulations;

and, if they are further considering whether to grant an injury pension, shall so refer the following questions—

- (c) whether the disablement is the result of an injury received in the execution of duty, and
- (d) the degree of the person's disablement;

and, if they are considering whether to revise an injury pension, shall so refer question (d) above.

(3) Where the police authority are considering eligibility for an award under regulation 12, paragraph (2) shall have effect as if the questions to be referred by them to a duly qualified medical practitioner were the following—

- (a) whether the person concerned is totally disabled;
- (b) whether that total disablement is likely to be permanent;
- (c) whether the disablement is the result of an injury received in the execution of duty; and
- (d) the date on which the person became totally disabled.

(4) A police authority, if they are considering exercising their powers under regulation 38 (reduction of award in case of default), shall refer for decision to a duly qualified medical practitioner selected by them the question whether the person concerned has brought about or substantially contributed to the disablement by his own default.

(5) The police authority may decide to refer a question in paragraph (2) or, as the case may be, (3) or (4) to a board of duly qualified medical practitioners instead of to a single duly qualified medical practitioner, and in such a case references in this regulation, regulations 31 and 32 and paragraphs

5(1)(a) and (2) of Schedule 6 to a medical practitioner shall be construed as if they were references to such a board.

(6) The decision of the selected medical practitioner on the question or questions referred to him under this regulation shall be expressed in the form of a report and shall, subject to regulations 31 and 32, be final.

(7) A copy of any such report shall be supplied to the person who is the subject of that report.

Appeal to board of medical referees

31.—(1) Where a person is dissatisfied with the decision of the selected medical practitioner as set out in a report under regulation 30(6), he may, within 28 days after he has received a copy of that report or such longer period as the police authority may allow, and subject to and in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 6, give notice to the police authority that he appeals against that decision.

(2) In any case where within a further 28 days of that notice being received (or such longer period as the police authority may allow) that person has supplied to the police authority a statement of the grounds of his appeal, the police authority shall notify the Secretary of State accordingly and the police authority shall refer the appeal to a board of medical referees, appointed in accordance with arrangements approved by the Secretary of State, to decide.

(3) The decision of the board of medical referees shall, if it disagrees with any part of the report of the selected medical practitioner, be expressed in the form of a report of its decision on any of the questions referred to the selected medical practitioner on which it disagrees with the latter's decision, and the decision of the board of medical referees shall, subject to the provisions of regulation 32, be final.

Further reference to medical authority

32.—(1) A court hearing an appeal under regulation 34 or a tribunal hearing an appeal under regulation 35 may, if they consider that the evidence before the medical authority who has given the final decision was inaccurate or inadequate, refer the decision of that authority to him, or as the case may be it, for reconsideration in the light of such facts as the court or tribunal may direct, and the medical authority shall accordingly reconsider his, or as the case may be its, decision and, if necessary, issue a fresh report which, subject to any further reconsideration under this paragraph, shall be final.

(2) The police authority and the claimant may, by agreement, refer any final decision of a medical authority who has given such a decision to him, or as the case may be it, for reconsideration, and he, or as the case may be it, shall accordingly reconsider his, or as the case may be its, decision and, if necessary, issue a fresh report, which, subject to any further reconsideration under this paragraph or paragraph (1) or an appeal, where the claimant requests that an appeal of which he has given notice (before referral of the decision under this paragraph) be notified to the Secretary of State, under regulation 31, shall be final.

(3) If a court or tribunal decide, or a claimant and the police authority agree, to refer a decision to the medical authority for reconsideration under this regulation and that medical authority is unable or unwilling to act, the decision may be referred to a duly qualified medical practitioner or board of medical practitioners selected by the court or tribunal or, as the case may be, agreed upon by the claimant and the police authority, and his, or as the case may be its, decision shall have effect as if it were that of the medical authority who gave the decision which is to be reconsidered.

(4) In this regulation a medical authority who has given a final decision means the selected medical practitioner, if the time for appeal from his decision has expired without an appeal to a board of medical referees being made, or if, following a notice of appeal to the police authority, the police authority have not yet notified the Secretary of State of the appeal, and the board of medical referees, if there has been such an appeal.

Refusal to be medically examined

33. If a question is referred to a medical authority under regulation 30, 31 or 32 and the person concerned wilfully or negligently fails to submit himself to such medical examination or to attend such interviews as the medical authority may consider necessary in order to enable him to make his decision, then—

- (a) if the question arises otherwise than on an appeal to a board of medical referees, the police authority may make their determination on such evidence and medical advice as they in their discretion think necessary;
- (b) if the question arises on an appeal to a board of medical referees, the appeal shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Appeal by a member of a home police force

34. Where a member of a home police force, or a person claiming an award in respect of such a member, is aggrieved by the refusal of the police authority to admit a claim to receive as of right an award or a larger award than that granted, or by a decision of the police authority as to whether a refusal to accept medical treatment is reasonable for the purposes of regulation 7(3), or by the forfeiture under regulation 40 by the police authority of any award granted to or in respect of such a member, he may, subject to regulation 36, appeal to the Crown Court and that court, after enquiring into the case, may make such order in the matter as appears to it to be just.

Appeal by inspector of constabulary or police officer engaged on relevant service and any other overseas policeman

35.—(1) This regulation applies in relation to an inspector of constabulary or a police officer engaged on relevant service and any other overseas policeman, and any such person is in this regulation referred to as an officer to whom this regulation applies.

(2) Where an officer to whom this regulation applies, or a person claiming an award in respect of such an officer, is aggrieved by the refusal of the Secretary of State as police authority to admit a claim to receive as of right an award or a larger award than that granted, or by a decision of the Secretary of State as police authority as to whether a refusal to accept medical treatment is reasonable for the purposes of regulation 7(3), or by the forfeiture under regulation 40, by the Secretary of State as police authority, of any award granted to or in respect of such an officer, he may, subject to regulation 36, give notice of appeal to the Secretary of State; and any such notice shall be in writing and shall specify the grounds of the appeal.

(3) The Secretary of State, on receiving such notice of appeal, shall appoint an appeal tribunal (in paragraphs (4) to (9) referred to as the tribunal), consisting of three persons, including a barrister or solicitor of not less than seven years' standing and a retired member of a police force who, before he retired, held a rank not lower than that of superintendent.

(4) The time and place for the hearing, or any postponed or adjourned hearing, of the appeal shall be determined by the tribunal, which shall give reasonable notice thereof to the appellant and to the Secretary of State as police authority (in paragraphs (5) and (8) referred to as the parties).

(5) Either party may be represented before the tribunal by counsel, by a solicitor or by such other person as appears to him appropriate, adduce evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

(6) In the case of an appeal under this regulation the tribunal shall have regard to the practice of the Crown Court in the case of an appeal under regulation 34 or regulation H5 of the 1987 Regulations and the rules of evidence applicable in the case of such an appeal shall apply in the case of an appeal under this regulation.

(7) Subject to the preceding provisions of this regulation, the tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

(8) The tribunal, after enquiring into the case and arriving at a decision thereon, may make such order in the matter as appears to it just, which order shall state the reasons for the decision; and each of the parties shall be entitled to a copy of any such order.

(9) An appeal shall lie on a point of law from any decision of a tribunal under this regulation to the High Court in accordance with rules of court.

Limitations on appeals

36.—(1) An appeal shall not lie under regulation 34 or 35 against anything done by a police authority in the exercise of a power conferred by these Regulations which is expressly declared thereby to be a power which they are to exercise in their discretion.

(2) Subject to regulation 32(1), in any proceedings under regulation 34 or 35 the court or tribunal shall be bound by any final decision of a medical authority within the meaning of regulation 32.