**Pensions for Life – Equality for Police Widows and Widowers**

Below is a draft letter/email for you to send to your MP to encourage them to attend the drop-in we will be holding in Parliament. We recommend sending this message to your MP via email or by post, be sure to include your full postal address so that they can verify that you live in their constituency.

Draft text:

Dear [Mr/Ms] [MP Surname]

I am writing to you as a constituent and retired police officer to invite you to attend a parliamentary drop-in that is taking place to discuss survivors’ pensions for widows and widowers of police officers on 1st May.

I am a member of the National Association for Retired Police Officers (NARPO) which represents

nearly 90,000 former police officers of all ranks together with their widows, widowers and former partners. NARPO’s primary concern is to campaign and promote measures for the benefit of its members, with a particular focus on pensions and welfare.

On Wednesday 1st May 2019 NARPO will be holding a drop-in for parliamentarians to raise awareness about the lack of equality in access to survivors’ pensions for widows and widowers of police officers.

You may be aware that following a change to the Police Pension Regulations, there are now three different approaches in the UK in relation to survivors’ pensions and how they should be dealt with should an individual remarry, co-habit or form a civil partnership.

In Northern Ireland all police widows retain their widows’ pension upon remarriage, co-habitation or civil partnership irrespective of the circumstances of the death of their spouse. Whereas throughout the rest of the UK, the pension is only retained if the death of the spouse occurred on duty or as a result of an injury on duty. To further complicate matters in England and Wales the pension is only retained if the remarriage or cohabitation occurred after 1st April 2015, whereas in Scotland there is no such restriction.

This unfair policy puts widows and widowers in a dreadful position, forced to make a choice between financial security or isolation.

[INSERT ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HERE IF APPLICABLE]

NARPO are therefore calling for the Government to rectify this inequality and would like to talk to MPs about our concerns, and how you may be able to support members like me.

As my MP, I would be very grateful if you could spare time in your busy schedule to attend this drop-in. It is taking place between **2pm – 4pm on Wednesday 1st May in Room R, Portcullis House.** You will also receive an invitation from NARPO’s Chief Executive, Steve Edwards.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know whether you are able to attend and if there is anything else you can do to help rectify this very unfair situation.

Yours sincerely

[insert full name, followed by full postal address including postcode]