

Dear Federation Chair and Secretary

Over the last few weeks we have received a number of applications for treatment from officers who thought they had been donating to the PTC, but in actual fact they had only been donating to the NWPBF. They then discovered that this did not qualify them to be able to attend the PTC for treatment as they were non-donors of the Charity. We are all aware that some officers will donate to one of the charities, some will donate to neither, and some will donate to both. In an ideal world the simplest outcome for all of us to administer, is where an individual donates to both charities, and is then eligible to enjoy all the benefits which both charities offer.

Unfortunately recent examples include an officer who terminated their PTC donation when they transferred to a Force within No.1 Region from another Force and did not realise their membership of the NWPBF did not entitle them to apply to the PTC for treatment., Another officer who asked to start donating to both the PTC and the NWPBF last December, but only the NWPBF application was processed, meaning that they are not able to apply to the PTC for treatment. Both these cases and a number of others have only come to light when the individual has recently applied to attend the PTC, but then realised they were not able to do so, because they were not in fact current donors.

We are very conscious that behind every case and example lies an individual officer and a person who needs help now, and therefore we are trying to be as flexible and reasonable as possible in the interpretation of our policy to ensure we get officers to one of our two centres when they need treatment. However, we do also need to be fair to all our other donors who pay their donation regularly and ensure that we do not get into the situation where the exception becomes the rule. If we did so no-one would ever sign up to make a donation.

Could I therefore ask you to please circulate the information again to your officers detailing the benefits and distinctions of both the PTC and the NWPBF, and emphasise that if they wish to apply for treatment at the PTC, they must be a current donor to the PTC.

The PTC will offer an amnesty until **30th October 2016** for officers to check their payslips and ensure they are signed up to the PTC if that is their intention. If officers are not donors before this date we will accept applications for treatment at the PTC as long as those individuals sign up immediately as current donors, and they are prepared to pay the balance of their donation payment from 1 January 2016 to the PTC (this was the suggestion proposed to us with one of the applications we have received).

After **30th October 2016** the non-donor policy will be active again and people not signed up will either have to begin donating and wait 12 months for treatment, or make a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of their treatment as well as signing up.

I do hope this is clear but do contact me if you need any more details. Our aim as always at the PTC is to provide treatment and support to our patients in a timely manner, but in order to do so we need to ensure that we are only treating PTC donors. I do assure you that it is still our intention to work closely with the NWPBF and we hope to continue to provide a complementary service to all our patients, and remain well placed to support the most important people in all of this who are our Police Officer patients.

Patrick Cairns
CEO PTC