



**Northern Ireland
Police Fund**
Maryfield Complex,
100 Belfast Road,
Holywood, Co. Down,
BT18 9QY

Tel:
+44 (0) 28 9039 3556
Fax:
+44 (0) 28 9039 3555

E-mail:
admin@nipolicefund.org
Web:
www.nipolicefund.org

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Making a Difference

A series of overlapping, curved lines in shades of pink and white sweep across the middle of the page, creating a sense of movement and flow.

Disability Support Scheme

*Care in the
Police Family*

Northern Ireland

Disability Support Scheme

Disability Support Scheme

This scheme is intended to provide financial support for those enduring financial hardship as a direct result of terrorist violence. The range of support can vary from replacement/repair of household items to the purchase of equipment, all of which would improve the quality of the individual's life.

Eligibility

- Officers and former officers with serious physical and/or psychological injuries caused as a direct result of terrorist violence
- Serious physical and/or psychological injuries are defined as those which would entitle the applicant to a minimum Band 2 medical discharge, as determined by an occupational physician.
Applicants must also be able to demonstrate that he/she was the directly intended target of terrorist attack.
- Widows of RUC and PSNI Officers whose deaths were as a direct result of terrorist attack.
- Widows and families of officers who were eligible but die post service and Widow/ers and dependent children of officers already in receipt of support from the NI Police Fund will continue to be eligible for support when the officer has died of natural causes.
- Siblings of police officers murdered or seriously injured as a direct result of terrorist violence will only be considered eligible in exceptional circumstances, where they can prove a dependency on the person murdered/injured and can demonstrate a significant adverse and direct impact on their earnings capacity/income. Applications of this kind will be referred for consideration by the full Board of Directors.

Disability Support Scheme

Evidential Requirements:

Applicants must provide documentary evidence from either PANI or the NI Policing Board, confirming their IOD banding level.

An assessment of need will be carried out in support of all applications to this scheme. Applicants must provide details of their financial circumstances in the application form.

Quotes must be supplied in respect of all items for which the applicant is seeking assistance, one quote for under £500, two for £500 - £1,000, and three for quotes over £1,000.

Note: Any request for counselling (debt, generic/psychological) will initially be referred to the Chief Executive who will then approve/not approve an Assessment Report to be completed by an independent professional counsellor appointed by the Fund to determine what and how treatment is required to resolve issues.

Maximum Individual Grant: £6,000:

Awards above this threshold will only be considered where there is clear evidence that the client has no disposable, or a negative disposable, income and no savings.

Once an application has been approved a client can only apply again within 12 months of the awarding of the grant in exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Board. Clients cannot re-apply for the same item if their first request for that item has been declined, nor can applications be split into separate parts to avoid the capping of awards.