



General Support Scheme Information

Our Policy

The NIPF is committed to supporting police officers injured through terrorist violence and, as appropriate, their widows/widowers. Therefore, the Fund has introduced a 'General Support Scheme' to offer financial assistance to injured ex officers, widows/widowers and parents who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of bereavement, injury or disability. This scheme is essentially about awarding grants to assist clients e.g. to carry out essential home maintenance work, to replace or repair basic household items, which will improve the quality of the individual's life and have a long term positive impact on their home circumstances.

Eligibility

In order to benefit from the General Support Scheme you must meet one of the following criteria:

- You must be an eligible ex officer
- You must be an eligible widow or widower
- You must be an eligible parent of a murdered officer

Police officer refers to members of the RUC/RUC Reserve and PSNI/PSNI Reserve who were victims of terrorist violence. The scheme does not include serving police officers as it is aimed at addressing those clients who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of terrorist injury or loss.

'Seriously injured' means that the police officer would have been entitled to a minimum Injury on Duty (IOD) Band 2 medical discharge as determined by an occupational physician. Injuries may be physical, psychological or both. The injury must also be as a result of terrorist violence.

In the case of officers or part time officers who are not eligible for an IOD award, the Fund will consider such other evidence of eligibility as it considers relevant. Invariably this will include submitted **professional** evidence from a qualified **medical practitioner** detailing the nature and extent of injuries.

Widows and widowers are spouses of those officers whose deaths occurred as a result of terrorist violence. However, spouses of eligible officers who are already in receipt of support from the NI Police Fund will continue to be eligible for support should their officer spouse die due to natural causes.

Scheme

This scheme replaces two earlier existing schemes run by the NIPF, the Disability Support Scheme and Bereavement Support Scheme.

The new scheme can provide financial support up to a maximum limit in any single financial year. Please refer to covering letter or visit our website for current grant limits.

Funding will not be awarded for items valued at less than £150.00 unless the applicant can demonstrate that they do not have the necessary disposable income.

Application

A home visit by one of our Assessment Officers will be required when applying under the General Support Scheme as well as the following:

When completing an application:

- Show that there is an obvious need for the items or work requested.
- Give evidence that there will be a long term positive impact as a result of any grant awarded
- Provide details of your financial circumstances as set out on the application form (Evidence may be requested e.g mortgage statements)
- Submit the correct number of quotations from suppliers. The quotations must be on letter headed paper, detailing the supplier's address and contact telephone number

Quotations

Quotations must be supplied in respect of all items/works for which the applicant is seeking assistance. The number of quotations relates to the value of the work or items being requested. The table below outlines the number of quotations required in each case.

VALUE OF ITEM / WORKS	QUOTATIONS REQUIRED
Up to £1000	1
£1000 to £5000	2
£5000 to £10000	3

The purpose of requiring quotations is to ensure that the applicant is seeking value for money. This is necessary as the NIPF supports its clients through the awarding of public money and it must demonstrate that it is using public funds appropriately. The quotation requirement will be subject to periodic review.

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