

Oifig an Aire Cosanta agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs



23 February 2021

Mr. Ollie O'Connor  
Chief Executive Officer  
Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann/Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE)  
Brú na bhFiann,  
Smithfield Market  
North King St, Dublin 7  
D07 HD72

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

I wish to refer to previous engagement and correspondence with your association regarding the question of extending the benefit of the 4 July 2019 Pay Commission increase in the rate of military service allowance (MSA) to military pensions already in payment before that date.

You will be aware that since early July 2019, there has been ongoing engagement between my Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) – at Ministerial and official level – on this matter.

I am now pleased to inform you that my Department has secured formal approval from DPER to pass on the benefit of the MSA rate increase awarded to serving Defence Forces personnel on 4 July 2019, to relevant qualifying military pensions that were already in payment before that date. This is backdated to 4 July 2019. For pre-4 July 2019 military pensioners, the measure of course only applies to those pensions that already include an 'MSA' component.

I am advised that this is a significant administrative task and so will take time to complete. Nevertheless, my Department will, along with its payroll provider (NSSO), act as quickly as possible to pass the benefit (including arrears) on to all those involved.

Yours sincerely

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Simon Coveney TD  
Minister for Defence and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs