

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

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BRANCH CIRCULAR 10/20

To: All Branch Secretaries, Chairmen and Treasurers; Regional Secretaries; Members of the NEC and Financial Controller

17th March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

CORONAVIRUS- COVID19

A meeting of the Urgent Business Committee of the NEC Urgent Business Committee has been held and gives the following advice and recommendations.

It is appreciated that individuals need to take their own decisions as to their intended lifestyle whilst the pandemic exists. However, where possible we should continue to care for family, friends, neighbours and NARPO members, especially those who may be in isolation. From a NARPO perspective, it is requested that the committee regularly check the websites which indicate the current situation. People may have welfare needs and to assist without compromising safety they may do so but if there are extreme needs that cannot be met then these should be referred to an appropriate agency e.g. NHS, Social Care Services, food bank etc.

RULES

Government restrictions and the welfare of our members must and will take precedence over the Rules of the Association.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

It is recommended that all future meetings be cancelled forthwith. The requirement for the formal adoption of Branch accounts will of necessity be suspended but the finalised accounts should be forwarded to NARPO House as usual and adopted later, at the first subsequent meeting.

BRANCH MEETINGS

All Branch meetings should be cancelled until 1st June at the earliest. Further advice will be issued later should it be required.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Elections to the NEC should be suspended until such time that arrangements for elections can be arranged. Regions may consider holding elections by post or electronically but, if there is an issue of confidential voting, they may be conducted in person at or before the start of Conference.

NEC MEETINGS

The May meeting of the NEC is cancelled. The Conference Co-ordinator will take responsibility for arrangements for Conference with the Urgent Business Committee and for the adoption of Motions in consultation with members of the NEC.

CONFERENCE 2020

It is anticipated that Conference will proceed on Friday 11th September and arrangements will continue as planned. At this stage, it cannot be an absolute certainty. The situation will be subject of continued review and advice. Branches that have made arrangements may wish to make enquires of their hotel as to final dates should a cancellation be necessary together with any potential penalties.

If it should become necessary to cancel Conference in September, consideration will be given to the holding of an Extraordinary Conference as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. If such a situation arises, existing NEC Members will remain in office until such time as a later meeting can be arranged

WELFARE VISITS, FUNERALS AND EVENTS

Any decisions to attend or make visits must be the responsibility of individuals but we strongly recommend the following of Government and medical advice and not to take risks. The health of you and of your members is of paramount importance.

NARPO HQ

NARPO HQ will close on 18th March in line with Government recommendations. However HQ service to Branches and Members will continue as usual with all staff working remotely in line with our agreed plan. Staff will continue to answer telephone calls and emails and those contacting HQ are asked to be patient during this difficult time.

New Member applications will be processed, and Members will receive their Membership number, but not the Packs, as these are put together in the office.

This situation will be periodically reviewed by the CEO.

FURTHER ADVICE

Further advice will be circulated from time to time based on and Government or medical advice. Any individual difficulties or problem should be raised with HQ or your Regional Representative.

Members should note the current guidance that they should self-isolate if they are suffering from a continuous cough or running a high temperature and in all situations we should observe the rigours of hygiene, particularly regular and thorough hand washing.

You can follow Government advice at the following websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>

We recommend that you share all this advice with your membership.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer