



# Retired Lines

The Official Newsletter of the National Association for  
Retired British Transport Police Officers and Staff



Volume 23 No.4

Christmas 2018

## Scotland Update

*By Martyn Ripley.*

**Since our last Retired Lines, we have had new developments surrounding the proposed merger of British Transport Police (Scotland)**

As our Chairman has written in this edition, a change of Justice Minister took place in the summer. It was announced that the new Minister wished to put the merger on hold, in order to obtain further views from stakeholders.

It should be noted, at this stage this is a postponement and not a cancellation. However, in the short term (Whatever the short term is?) the merger is off.

NARBTPO were then invited to a Scottish Government meeting, held to explore accountability and responsibility in the delivery of railway policing in Scotland.

This meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh.

Also in attendance were Academics, Rail Unions, Industry partners, the Chief Constable, the Chair of the BTP and Scottish Police Authority members, Dept of Transport, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary (Scotland) The BTP Federation and TSSA.

We had an opportunity to pose questions to Mr Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This was the first time we had met him, and we can report back that he is fully aware of the pension issues.

He is open to hearing from stakeholders and was genuinely constructive, but firm on the fact this merger could still go ahead if we do not supply solutions.

This meeting was held over a full day and was intense in its content.

The tone was different to those we have previously attended, as the focus was solely to examine and explore how B.T.P. might become more accountable to the Scottish Government. It did not specifically cover pensions, but we did raise this with the Minister.

No decisions were made but we hope to hear more, once the powers have reflected on the day, by Christmas.

### In this Issue

Page 2	Re-union News - a roundup of the latest dates and venues
Page 4	Chief's Update
Page 6	View from the Top – the Chairman's Column
Page 7	NARBTPO Committee 2019 Membership Fees
Page 8	The Way We Were – A peep into the past
Page 9	Editorial BTP History Group
Page 11	Letter to the Editor Europe on Two Wheels,
Page 13	In Case You Missed It. BTP in the media.
Page 18	Obituaries
Page 21	Keeping in Touch
Page 22	And Finally
Attached	Committee Nomination Form Membership Renewal Form Membership Directory Form S.O. Mandate

Whilst we do not actually know what the outcomes will be, we must not lose sight of the Scottish Government's longer-term objective to merge the two forces. That is still on the table and written into statute.

NARBTPO stance remains quite simple. Pensions?

Having attended this meeting we left with a perception that pensions have been a factor in delaying the merger.

The proposed new 'Segregated Pension' is not in our best interests and is not sustainable. Whilst this is only our perception, your NARBTPO representatives felt for the first time that our voice has been heard loudly by others.

I do not speak lightly when I say that our campaign is slowly paying off, in terms of other stakeholders seriously considering and hearing what we have to say